

YORK COMMERCIALIZATION FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT:

On January 14, 2022 The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities released Ontario's Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework. York University supports the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework of the Government of Ontario by investing in supports for the commercialization of intellectual property to benefit Ontario, Canada, and the world. Within the context of York University collective agreements and Senate policies, this document outlines York University's commercialization procedures and fulfils our commitment to the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework.

YORK'S COMMERCIALIZATION FRAMEWORK

1. Commitment to the management and protection of IP
 - a. York University is committed to the management and protection of intellectual property (IP) in a manner that maximizes commercialization opportunities, protects Ontario interests, and strengthens the Ontario economy.
 - b. While supports for protection and management of IP are under the purview of the Vice-president Research and Innovation (VPRI), all Faculties across York University as well as York's Organized Research Units (ORUs) understand the importance of commercialization as one mechanism to translate the results of publicly funded research into benefits for citizens.
 - c. VPRI invests in professional staff and other financial support to identify research with commercial potential, file patents and other forms of IP where indicated, and manage commercialization of IP including starting up companies where appropriate.
 - d. Commercialization includes finding opportunities for collaborative research with industry and leverage industry funding with public sources of funding. This creates benefits for researchers and industry and specifically helps expose undergraduate, graduate and post doctoral trainees to industry engaged research.
 - e. Commercialization also includes working with and for industry through research and service agreements.
2. Defined roles and responsibilities for relevant stakeholders within the institution to achieve this commitment:
 - a. The Vice-President Research & Innovation has overall responsibility for and leadership of commercialization and delegates this responsibility to the Assistant VP Research Partnerships and Innovation.

- b. The Commercialization and Industry Liaison unit reports to the Assistant VP Research Partnerships and Innovation. This unit receives and evaluates Invention Disclosures for discoveries created at York University and supports the protection and commercialization of IP that has commercial potential. This unit also promotes commercialization as a key component of York's research enterprise and provides training for students and faculty members.
- c. Faculties' Associate Dean of Research & Research Officers support research activities within Faculties and connect researchers who have developed IP with the commercialization unit in VPRI.
- d. Organized Research Units support research activities falling outside of Faculty disciplines and connect researchers who have developed IP with the commercialization unit in VPRI.
- e. Supports for Entrepreneurs: Y Space is a physical space in Markham which provides University-wide supports for entrepreneurial activities by university researchers, students and alumni as well as the members of the community. VPRI chairs the pan-University Strategic Entrepreneurship Council that has a mandate to implement the Strategic Entrepreneurship Plan. Beyond VPRI, York University supports entrepreneurship via:
 - i. the BEST Lab within the Lassonde Faculty of Engineering
 - ii. Schulich Startups within the Schulich School of Business
 - iii. GENIAL at Glendon College
 - iv. Agents of Change in the Faculty of Health
- f. IP Osgoode: A program within Osgoode Hall Law School involving the study of IP law, policymaking, and research.
- g. Faculty members, Students and post doctoral fellows are key to creating new IP at the University.
- h. Office of the Counsel provides legal advice to VPRI, engages external IP counsel when necessary and pays the expenses of patent protection.
- i. York's Division of Advancement regularly engages with industry seeking funding for research collaborations on research chairs and student support.

3. Commitment to capacity building:

- a. York University is committed to increase IP capacity through programming and related activities including access to IP Education and Awareness resources for all relevant stakeholders within the institution.
- b. Services of the IP Osgoode Innovation Clinic are provided to IP creators.
- c. IP online resources (e.g., from CIPO and AUTM) are provided on the commercialization website: <https://innovationyork.ca/commercialization/>
- d. The Commercialization professionals regularly participate in credit courses giving guest lectures as well as providing workshops to the 4th year engineering capstone project students.

- e. Research Commons, the brand for VPRI research capacity building programs, hosts workshops on identifying and protecting IP.
- f. IP advice is provided by IY Commercialization team directly to stakeholders upon request
- g. VPRI invests in Commercialization Fellowships for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. This is a competitive process that funds four Commercialization Fellows for four months starting every January. This includes funding for commercialization and dedicated workshops for IP protection and management.

4. Invention disclosure process:

- a. York University is an inventor-own institution:
 - i. Article 23 of the Collective Agreement between York University and the York University Faculty Association
 - ii. Faculty Policy on Intellectual Property for Graduate Programs
- b. IP owners are required to disclose IP to York University before York University will invest in supports for commercialization.

5. Net Benefit to Ontario:

- a. York University is committed to provide guidance for stakeholders regarding the commercialization of IP generated with the institution's resources in a manner that aims to generate economic and/or social value for the people of Ontario, the Ontario economy, and the Ontario innovation ecosystem.
- b. Contract research brings funding and student training benefits to Ontario.
- c. Commercialization with an Ontario company brings benefits to Ontario.
- d. Starting up a company from faculty member research brings benefits to Ontario since the company is usually started in Ontario.
- e. Partnerships with local incubators, accelerators, and regional innovation centres as well as local angel investor networks are maintained, leading to the transfer of IP to Ontario companies.

6. York University is committed to provide guidance for relevant stakeholders regarding institutional engagement with the Ontario innovation ecosystem – see appendix 1 for details.

- a. York University already takes advantage of and is an active contributor to the Ontario innovation ecosystem.
- b. The commercialization page on the Innovation York website includes a gateway for companies to see partnership opportunities, including information about all the services available to companies and how to benefit from them. It is also explicit about opportunities for leveraged funding using

public funding programs such as Ontario Centre of Innovation and NSERC Alliance among others. York University also promotes the Ontario R&D Tax Credit program for eligible research collaboration activities.

- c. York University promotes Ontario programs including the Ontario Genomics, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Ontario Centre for Innovation, MaRS, and the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs including our local ventureLAB. York University participates fully in the Ontario Research Fund programs including Small Infrastructure Fund, Large Infrastructure Fund, Research Excellence Fund and Early Research Awards. We also work with industry associations such as Life Sciences Ontario.
- d. Locally York University works with York Angel Investors, local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in Toronto and the nine municipalities of York Region.
- e. York University works locally seeking partnerships with key MNEs in York Region including IBM, Sanofi and Magna.
- f. York has been an active participant in OCE Discovery and currently participates in Collision.

Appendix 1

YORK UNIVERSITY – CONNECTIONS TO BROADER INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- [Innovation York \(IY\)](#): Facilitates University-wide innovation activities.
- [Commercialization Unit within Innovation York](#): Receives and evaluates Invention Disclosures for discoveries created at York University and supports the protection and commercialization of those that meet the criteria.
- **Faculties' Associate Dean of Research & Research Officers**: Support research activities within faculties and connect researchers who have developed IP with Innovation York.
- [YSpace](#): University-wide unit to support entrepreneurial activities by the University researchers as well as the members of the community.
 - **YSpace Digital**: Online community that offers virtual support and programming for students, faculty, and ventures from ideation to the market ready stage.
 - **YSpace ELLA**: Ontario's first accelerator focused on women-led product and serviced-based businesses.
 - **YSpace Markham**: Physical incubator located in York Region that supports growth-ready tech ventures.
 - [Food & Beverage Resource Portal](#): An open database of distributors, manufacturers and partners in the food and beverage industry.
 - **Black Entrepreneurship Alliance**: Provides agri-food, technology, and business leadership training and resources in partnership with the Black Creek Community Health Centre.
- [IP Osgoode](#): Program within Osgoode Hall Law School involving the study of IP law, policy-making, and research.
- [Schulich Startups](#): Unit within Schulich School of Business to support entrepreneurial activities by Schulich community members.
- [Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology \(BEST\) Lab](#): Unit within the Lassonde Faculty of Engineering that supports entrepreneurial activities by engineering researchers, including physical space for technical development.
- [BEST Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Technology Entrepreneurship](#): Certificate that integrates technology, law, and business into creative problem-solving and innovation; designed to teach, promote, focus, and recognize student entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.
- [Entrepreneurship Development Association \(EDA\)](#): Student-run team from various departments within York University that connects students with practitioners and resources to strengthen their venture ideas and explore entrepreneurship as a career.
- [Faculty of Health's Agents of Change](#): Offers mentorship and funding to support innovative student-led community initiatives that address the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).
- [Innovation York Entrepreneurship Initiative](#): Six-month program open to School of Continuing Studies students and recent graduates.
 - Students validate their business concept, learn entrepreneurship theories, receive one-on-one coaching, and overcome barriers to start a business.
- **Education:**
 - [Schulich Entrepreneurial & Family Business Studies](#)

- Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LAPS): [Business & Society](#) (BUSO), [Business Economics](#), [Business Management](#), and [Bachelor of Commerce](#)

YORK REGION

- [York Region Innovation Portal](#): Official online hub of York Region's innovation and start-up ecosystem, run by The Regional Municipality of York with support from innovation network partners.
 - Find jobs, learn about events, read stories on business leaders and other exciting news from the innovation ecosystem in York Region.
- [York Small Business Enterprise Centre \(YSBEC\)](#): Serves the six York Region municipalities of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville.
 - Training, business plan development, mentoring (through participation in various programs), and advisory services.
 - The Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan also have Small Business Enterprise Centres to serve their respective communities.
- [ventureLAB](#): Regional Innovation Centre (RIC) for York Region.
 - Selects >100 ventures yearly to join a diverse hub without taking equity.
 - Provides a prototype & testing lab, innovation space, dedicated advisors, training, partnerships, and showcase opportunities.
 - **Pitch Competition** awards in cash and in-kind to start-ups and scaleups.
 - **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund** supports early-stage start-ups, accelerators, incubators, and community partners.
 - **Demo Day** to connect ventures with aligned investors.
- [Accelerate Newmarket](#): In partnership with Treefrog Accelerator, Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, Schulich and YSpace; this is a multi-dimensional program that offers mentorship and resources for technology ventures.
- [NewMakelt](#): A space for creators with high end equipment available for usage.
- [York Angel Investors](#): A group of accredited investors within York Region that invest in innovative ventures.

GREATER TORONTO AREA

- [MaRS](#): Helps high-impact tech start-ups and scale-ups grow and succeed.
 - Four main sectors: Health, Cleantech, Fintech, and Enterprise.
- [Next Canada](#): A suite of programs for entrepreneurs including NextAI for AI based ventures, Next36 for young founders, and Next Founders for founders of scaling ventures.
- [Creative Destruction Lab](#): Supporting high tech ventures to prepare for fundraising and meet potential investors.
- [One Eleven](#): Office rental for late-stage ventures with mentorship and networking resources.

ONTARIO

- [Ontario Centre of Innovation \(OCI\)](#): Develops and delivers programs that accelerate the development, commercialization, and adoption of advanced technologies to drive job creation in Ontario.
 - Brings industry, academic, and government partners together and invests in collaborative R&D, technology development, and commercialization.

CANADA

- [Industrial Research Assistance Program \(IRAP\)](#): Federal program with regional representatives.
 - Provides advice, connections, and funding to help small and medium-sized businesses increase innovation capacity and take ideas to market.
- [Business Development Bank of Canada \(BDC\)](#): Helps small & medium-sized businesses in all industries at every stage of growth with money and advice.
 - Flexible financing, investment solutions, and advisory services.
- [Elevate](#): Connects global icons, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, corporate innovators, policy-makers and students to help solve complex social problems.
 - **Elevate Technology Festival** partners with the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, and City of Toronto.
- [Futurpreneur Canada](#): Non-profit organization helping Canadians become business owners with loan financing, mentoring, and business resources.
 - For aspiring entrepreneurs aged 18–39.
- [BrainSTEM Alliance – STEMtrepreneur](#): Combines entrepreneurship and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to inspire innovation.
 - Focuses on project management principles, business and finance as well as leadership concepts that can show you how to create something new.