

Public Statement on Annual Commercialization Plan

YORK UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & INNOVATION

York University recognizes the importance of research and innovation in driving economic growth and creating social impact. The university has a strong commitment to fostering a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem that enables faculty, staff, and students to collaborate and bring new ideas to market. To achieve this goal, York University has taken a strategic approach to research and innovation activities by engaging with the private sector, research and innovation intermediaries, IPON, and the on-campus research and innovation ecosystem.

Through its Strategic Research Plan 2023-2028, York University has identified possible approaches that can be taken to increase its research and innovation activities, and to better position itself within the Ontario research and innovation cycle.

1. **Strengthening collaborations with the private sector:** York University recognizes the value of partnerships with the private sector in driving innovation and commercialization. To maximize the impact of these partnerships, the University can take an active role in fostering collaborations with industry partners, leveraging its research strengths to identify areas of mutual interest and aligning resources to advance joint research initiatives. For example, the University can hold regular workshops and seminars to bring together researchers and industry partners to explore opportunities for collaboration and create a platform for knowledge exchange.
2. **Engaging with research and innovation intermediaries:** Research and innovation intermediaries play a critical role in bridging the gap between academia and industry, and York University can leverage these relationships to further advance its research and innovation activities. The University can engage with organizations such as the Ontario Centres of Innovation (OCI), the National Research Council (NRC), and the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) to identify funding opportunities, receive support for technology commercialization and connect with potential industry partners.
3. **IPON:** Intellectual Property (IP) is a critical component of the research and innovation ecosystem, and York University recognizes the importance of IP management in commercializing its research outcomes. To better manage its IP assets, York University can take a proactive approach to IP protection and commercialization, including working with IPON (Ontario's Intellectual Property Office) to provide education and awareness training, and to secure IP protection for its research outcomes. This can be achieved through various initiatives, such as offering IP education and awareness training for faculty and students, participating in IPON-hosted events and workshops, and engaging with IPON to secure IP protection for its research outcomes.
4. **Building a robust on-campus research and innovation ecosystem:** To effectively drive research and innovation activities, York University needs to create an ecosystem

that supports and nurtures interdisciplinary research, entrepreneurship and commercialization. This can be achieved by investing in research infrastructure, creating opportunities for student entrepreneurship and innovation, and establishing a supportive culture that values risk-taking and encourages collaboration across disciplines. For example, the University can establish a research park or incubator to provide a physical space for researchers, entrepreneurs and start-ups to collaborate and bring their ideas to market.

5. Fostering interdisciplinary research: York University's research strengths lie in its ability to cross disciplinary boundaries, and the University can build on this by fostering interdisciplinary research initiatives that bring together researchers from different fields to tackle complex problems. By doing so, the University can leverage its unique combination of research strengths to create innovative solutions and impact.
6. Increasing public engagement for a just and sustainable world: Finally, York University recognizes the importance of public engagement in advancing its research and innovation activities. The University can take an active role in engaging with communities and stakeholders to ensure that its research is relevant, accessible and addresses real-world problems. This can be achieved through regular public lectures and workshops, community-based research projects, and partnering with non-profit organizations to address social and environmental issues.
7. Research Impact and Knowledge Mobilization: Beyond its commitment to innovation, and commercialization, the University is committed to maximizing the impact of research for Ontario and Canadian communities and solving our society's biggest challenges. York University will continue to host Research Impact Canada, an open and collaborative network of 20+ across Canada, to sharing best practices, co-develop resources, and deliver training in knowledge mobilization skills.

By taking these seven approaches, York University can further accelerate its research and innovation activities, creating new opportunities for collaboration, commercialization, and impact. The University recognizes the importance of its role in Ontario's research and innovation cycle and is committed to leveraging its strengths to contribute to a just and sustainable world.