

Annual Commercialization Plan – 2023

At Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), our researchers are driven by intellectual curiosity and a desire for sustainable change. The university's distinctive core mission – to serve societal need – attracts highly skilled creative and critical talent who address increasingly interconnected, complex problems and work towards effective solutions. Ideas can come from anyone within the TMU community, and the potential impact could be commercial, societal and/or environmental.

The advancement of knowledge and the creation of new and original Intellectual Property (IP) is fundamental to the university's scholarly, research and creative (SRC) endeavours. Core to the university's impact-focused mission is the creation, promotion, dissemination and responsible commercialization of IP, including new knowledge, technologies and innovative ideas. A strong commercialization strategy means that the public benefits from the inventive and creative advancements in artistic, technical and scientific knowledge created at the university.

Many different support mechanisms exist at TMU for collaboration between our researchers, students and industry (including start-ups). For researchers, collaboration happens often through AIMdays, research contracts and funding grants from Mitacs, OCI, NSERC, OMFRA and other funding agencies. These contracts and grants often lead to the development of IP, and it is through engagement with the faculty members that this IP can be explored for commercialization purposes.

At TMU, researchers own their IP as per the SRC Intellectual Property Policy (# 171) and under the terms of the Faculty Association Collective Agreement. Net revenue earned from the IP is split between the researcher and the university. The revenue split is, by default, 90% to the researcher and 10% to the university. In some situations, if extraordinary support is provided, the university's percentage may increase. The revenue returned to the university will help fund future research and commercialization initiatives.

If a researcher chooses to commercialize the IP, TMU may help by providing commercialization funding or by providing licensing and IP legal services. As Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON) continues to develop, TMU intends to build a strong relationship to ensure researchers have access to external IP support services. Resources exist internally for researchers to tap into along their commercialization journey, including Entrepreneurs-In-Residence (EIRs), the Zones, the Collaboratory and Faculty Research and Innovation Offices (RiOs). Increased use of the internal resources benefits both current and future members of the TMU community.

For 2023, the team built within the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) will continue to add resources that support commercialization and will continue to increase engagement internally and externally. The team will be working to clearly communicate the opportunities of commercialization and how that is supported and managed at TMU. Additional pathways to support commercialization will be explored with the addition of an Impact Disclosure alongside the Invention Disclosure. The goal is to reduce the barrier to submitting a disclosure, increase engagement and increase the opportunity to deliver impact and benefit the TMU community, Ontario and the world.