

## Toronto Metropolitan University Commercialization Framework

### **Our Pledge to Tackle Complex, Real-World Economic, Social and Environmental Challenges, and Contribute to Innovative Solutions for Ontario and Beyond**

At Toronto Metropolitan University, formerly Ryerson University, our researchers are led by intellectual curiosity and a desire for sustainable change, and are creating evidence-based solutions and activating real-world transformation to shape a sustainable and prosperous future. The university's distinctive core mission – to serve societal need – responds to the demand for highly skilled creative and critical thinkers who address increasingly interconnected, complex problems and work towards effective solutions.

With a strong focus on innovation, commercialization and impact, the university will continue to actively:

- Encourage and support faculty and students to defy convention as they seek innovative solutions to make the world a better place for all.
- Strengthen cooperation and partnerships with diverse communities, industry, stakeholders, government and the innovation ecosystem to turn new insights into viable solutions.
- Foster entrepreneurial skill sets, improve processes and develop resources to create economic, social and environmental value.

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 mission is the creation, promotion, dissemination and responsible commercialization of intellectual property, including new knowledge, technologies and innovative ideas so that the public benefits from the inventive and creative advancements in artistic, technical and scientific knowledge which have been created at the university.

The university commits to make reasonable efforts to maximize the benefit resulting from newly created intellectual property to Ontario and Canada, including economic growth, improved quality of life and environmental sustainability. When there are no feasible opportunities for commercialization within Ontario or Canada, the owners of such IP will take the appropriate steps to exploit the IP in such a way that would still accrue substantial benefits to Ontario and Canada.

The university encourages and supports students and faculty in establishing and accelerating new businesses, creating jobs, and transforming SRC activity into marketable products and services. The university has built a strong innovation ecosystem and substantial infrastructure and networks through initiatives like the Zone Learning model and Innovate + Impact Network of Canada (I-INC). Advancing innovation and commercialization opportunities requires close collaboration with members of the regional innovation ecosystem, such as the Ontario Centre of Innovation, SOSCIP or eCampusOntario.

### **Management and Protection of Intellectual Property: Roles and Responsibilities**

A fundamental premise of the university's IP Policy is that members of the university community, who create or invent any IP by conceptualizing the intellectual activity in the course of their SRC activity, are free to make decisions with respect to the dissemination, disposition or use of the results of those SRC activities. Nevertheless, the university may have obligations to disclose IP created in the course of SRC

activity by any member of the community, in order to fulfill its obligations under various funding agreements with sponsors and government agencies that support research.

Toronto Metropolitan University, through the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI), provides a portfolio of support services and resources to researchers for IP evaluation and protection, including assistance with applications for IP protection, licensing and commercialization.

### **Intellectual Property Policy**

The university's Policy No. 171: Scholarly, Research and Creative (SRC) Intellectual Property Policy applies to the management and ownership of IP created on campus. Ownership of IP created by the University Faculty Association's members is determined in accordance with the terms set out in the University Faculty Association's Collective Agreement.

The purpose of the IP Policy is to support the mission of the university to further the advancement of knowledge and research for societal benefit, including through the dissemination and sharing of IP; to clarify ownership of IP created in the course of SRC activity; to ensure that revenue generated from IP that is created in the course of SRC activity is shared in an appropriate manner; and to ensure that all creators of the IP are provided with the appropriate guidance around their rights. (Appendix 1)

### **Processes and Procedures**

The University Faculty Association's Collective Agreement, as well as the IP Policy, requires disclosure of an invention by a university community member. The university, through the OVPRI, provides guidance and IP and commercialization resources to the university research community, including access to expert IP counsel, regular educational workshops and the development of custom commercialization roadmaps with creators. The university, through the OVPRI, has set up disclosure and commercialization processes, will continue to monitor annual commercialization outcomes, and regularly reviews existing policies and procedures to continue building on the university's SRC excellence. (Appendix 1)

### **A Campus-wide Infrastructure Integrated in Ontario's and Canada's Innovation Ecosystem**

The university has established a comprehensive innovation and commercialization infrastructure to start and advance new ventures, and to build knowledge and skill sets of entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialization. This system covers the complete value chain from ideation to early-stage investment and is integrated with the broader innovation ecosystem in Ontario and Canada. (Appendix 3, 4 and 5)

The OVPRI provides a comprehensive and supportive innovation and commercialization framework for the research community which balances the interests of the university with its SRC community. The support includes financing of IP applications and maintenance, expert advice and access to industry, finance and capital.

Under the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, curricular and co-curricular activities foster the development of entrepreneurial and innovation learning and skills development. The university has the largest entrepreneurship faculty in Canada, and 75 entrepreneurship and innovation courses attended by 6,000 students are held each year. An on-campus network of 10 incubation "zones" delivers the unique Zone Learning experience – an out-of-classroom experience that builds competencies for the 21st century workplace and provides the workspaces with access to resources and services necessary to develop a sustainable venture (Appendix 2). This environment creates an active gateway between the university and the community and industry, and a dynamic hub for innovation.