



# Lakehead

UNIVERSITY

## Lakehead University Commercialization Framework

### Our Commitment

For over fifty years, Lakehead University has been at the forefront of discovery and dissemination of new knowledge. The *Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development* (“IPED”) 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. With campuses in both Thunder Bay and Orillia, our research and innovation priorities are closely aligned with the social, cultural, and economic realities of Northwestern and Central Ontario.

IPED exists to carry out the following functions:

- **Industry Research Partnerships:** assist Lakehead researchers in finding and building relationships with industry to partner on research and innovation projects. Additionally, assist industry that are interested in carrying out research with the University to connect with suitable Lakehead researchers. Industry is broadly defined as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), large industry, not-for-profit corporations and all levels of government.
- **Intellectual Property Management and Licensing:** evaluate newly disclosed inventions and other intellectual property. Where appropriate, assist with the effective transfer of Lakehead innovations to the private sector where these discoveries can be developed for public use and benefit, through licensing or start-up/spin-off companies.
- **Start-Up Company Development:** Where appropriate (i.e. when a suitable existing licensee cannot be located or when it makes sense from an economic development point of view), support the creation and implementation of new start-up companies through *Ingenuity*, Lakehead’s first business incubator.
- **Economic Development:** support the activities of the *President’s Advisory Council on Economic Development*, assist in the implementation of various economic development initiatives, collect and report on metrics of success, work with local and regional municipalities and First Nations to support business retention, expansion and attraction and be an active participant in the regional entrepreneur eco-system.

The *Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development* has implemented [Standard Operating Procedures](#) and service standards that set out various guidelines, and specifies approximate timelines for service provision. They also include a comprehensive outline of the office’s guiding principles, industry research partnerships protocols, and intellectual property practises.

Additionally, it is the intention of [Lakehead University’s Intellectual Property Policy](#) to apprise students, staff, faculty and the University of the forms of intellectual property, set out procedures to be followed, provide guidelines to assist in the determination of ownership, and establish guidelines for the use of Lakehead University resources.

## Defined Roles and Responsibilities

The *Office of Innovation, Partnerships & Economic Development's* mission is to contribute to and support the social and economic prosperity of Northern Ontario and Simcoe County communities through research, education, knowledge transfer, the training of highly-qualified personnel, commercialization, and Centres of Excellence. The role of the staff is to support the mission and both internal and external stakeholders to the University. Successful commercialization of technologies is achieved through a productive partnership between Lakehead University and the Inventor(s). IPED's commercialization process is designed to define the role of all stakeholders to achieve our commitment for successful commercialization of research-based inventions.

If an invention has been identified as suitable for IP Protection and commercialization, a legal document will be signed that will establish the working relationship between the inventor and the Institution. In this relationship, IPED's commitment is to protect the IP, and search for appropriate partners that have the necessary resources, expertise, and business networks to push the technology towards the commercialization pathway.

IPED works with all necessary departments and faculties in order to best support the Inventor and the technology. Some of these include: The Office of Research Services; *Ingenuity*, Lakehead's business incubator; the Faculty of Business; the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research (CIER); and many other Community Partners, as appropriate.

## Increase IP Capacity through IP Education and Awareness Resources

Lakehead University is committed to increasing Intellectual Property capacity through programming and related activities, including the provision of access to IP Education and Awareness resources for all students, faculty and staff. IPED is committed to offering:

- Workshops and/or training sessions on Intellectual Property protection
- Workshops on Industry Partnerships and how to broach IP with Industry
- Workshops on Entrepreneurial skills training for students, staff and faculty
- Pitch competitions, hackathons and larger events promoting IP skills training, entrepreneurial skills training, social innovation support, and start-up support
- Guidance and encouragement to faculty to participant in online IP resources and programming
- Online resources regarding IP Literacy, website and course links, program promotion of Community Partners and sharing communications regarding IP Education.
- Support for innovators in understanding the value of protecting their intellectual property by increasing access to digital education modules. Two foundational online IP courses are available for free in English and French through the [University of Toronto](#) and the [Centre for International Governance Innovation](#). In addition, resources are shared from the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#), the [Academy](#) by Patsnap, eCampus ([Knowledge Management and Communication](#)), the Government of Canada's [Safeguarding your Research](#), and the MaRS [Startup Toolkit](#).

## Invention Disclosure Policy

### Reporting New Discoveries

Lakehead University faculty (except Lakehead University Faculty Association or "LUFA" members), staff, and graduate students and other members of the University community have an obligation to report new

intellectual property developed with University support to IPED. LUFA members are encouraged to report new IP developed with University support. University support is defined as financial or other support, regardless of origin, that is used in the discovery or development of intellectual property and is provided through University channels.

LUFA members are required to provide the University notice within three months of filing a patent application on their own, pursuant to Article 38.01.03 of the LUFA Collective Agreement. The notice should include an assertion of whether or not it refers to an invention, improvement, design or development made with the extraordinary support of the Board. This notice should be forwarded to IPED's attention.

### **Invention Disclosure**

To report new Intellectual Property, an [Invention Disclosure Form](#) must be completed and submitted to IPED for evaluation. IPED's [Standard Operating Procedures](#) includes more detailed information on the evaluation of Invention Disclosures, Inventor Participation, the Assignment of Rights, Commercialization Plan Development, the Licensing Process and University Start-up Company Support.

## **Net Benefit to Ontarians**

Lakehead University has made a commitment to make reasonable efforts to maximize the benefit to Ontario resulting from University-owned Intellectual Property.

The University will:

- Provide guidance to all relevant stakeholders regarding the commercialization of IP generated within the University's resources in a manner that seeks to provide a net benefit to Ontarians. Net benefit refers to a net social and/or economic value generated for the people of Ontario, the Ontario economy and/or the Ontario innovation ecosystem
- Provide net benefit to Ontario through the funding and training of students and highly-qualified personnel
- Provide net benefit to Ontario by supporting social innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups in both Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County
- Diligently evaluate the potential for commercialization of IP within Ontario through a number of avenues. These avenues could include:
  - i. Working with *Intellectual Property Ontario* (IPON), an agency providing sophisticated IP knowledge, advice and services to support Ontario innovators, researchers, businesses and entrepreneurs
  - ii. Working with our outsourced Licensing Professionals to locate companies that benefit Ontario
  - iii. Providing prioritization of domestic industry partnerships where possible. Where there are no reasonable opportunities for commercialization of IP within Ontario, the University shall take reasonable steps to exploit the IP in Canada, or in such a way that reasonably substantial benefits still accrue to Canada.

## **Guidance for Relevant Stakeholders Regarding Institutional Engagement with the Innovation Ecosystem**

Lakehead University proudly partners with many existing community resources to leverage expertise and complement our mandate to achieve a higher level of impact. IPED works with its partners and

collaborators to accelerate commercialization by connecting the institution with various organizations within the region to broaden the entrepreneurial ecosystem for our faculty, staff and students.

Through IPED, Lakehead University is proud to be an integral part of the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem and has gone so far as to implement formal partnerships through signed Memorandums of Understanding with many community partners within the region.

Formal Partners include:

- The Northern Ontario Innovation Centre (NOIC)
- Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)
- PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise
- The Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre
- Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)
- Thunder Bay Ventures
- The Ontario Co-op Council/Conseil de la Cooperation de l'Ontario
- The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)
- Bioenterprise, Canada's Food and Agri-tech Engine
- Northern Ontario Angels

Other partnerships in Thunder Bay include:

- The Ontario Center of Innovation (OCI)
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute (TBRHRI)
- Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs
- Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Local Developers Group

Supporting Simcoe County's innovation and economic development partners help Lakehead University succeed in domestic markets and supports research and innovation in Ontario.

Our Central Ontario partners include:

- Orillia Chambers of Commerce
- Regional Economic Development Network  
(77 partners including EDOs, City, Towns, Townships and Business support services)
- Simcoe Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Committee  
(82 partners, including funders, Colleges, EDOs, Community Futures, and Support organizations)
- Regional Manufacturing Partner Alliance  
(includes LU, Georgian College, County of Simcoe, City of Barrie and City of Orillia)
- Simcoe County Entrepreneurship Network  
(includes the County of Simcoe, Georgian HBEC, Community Futures/CDCs, The Sandbox)
- Community Opportunities Development Committee  
(includes the City of Orillia, OSMH, Rama First Nation, Manufacturers, Georgian College)
- Barrie Economic Forum  
(includes Councillors, Chamber, Manufacturers, Lawyers, Downtown BIA, Georgian, etc.)
- Manufacturing Innovation Summit (held annually at Georgian College)