

INVENTIONS MANAGEMENT AND ENTERPRISE CREATION FRAMEWORK

Objectives

The University's Inventions Management and Enterprise Creation Framework has two primary objectives:

- To encourage and support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the University community; and,
- To deliver significant, sustainable value for society, the economy and the environment by connecting researchers, industry, investors and communities to turn discoveries into solutions the world needs, primarily through development of intellectual property (IP) into startup companies and licenses for commercial products and processes. The University values and embraces myriad other approaches to knowledge mobilization, however this framework is focused on commercialization of inventions.

Principles

The principles of this framework are entrenched within the following intentions of the University:

1. To embrace **inventor ownership**, with rapid assignment of IP ownership to inventors choosing to commercialize independent of the university following invention disclosure, with only two exceptions:
 - a) If the invention arises from Indigenous knowledges and cultural expressions; or
 - b) If an agreement or contract encumbers the IP, such as an existing industry sponsorship contract that sets out IP ownership terms.
2. To **better support inventors** throughout the commercialization process:
 - a) For inventors who choose to commercialize in partnership with the University, to support and meaningfully involve them with nimble and flexible approaches that **move at the speed of business**;
 - b) For inventors who choose to commercialize independent of the University, to provide concise commercialization guides and tools, and facilitate helpful connections to assist them.
3. To **eagerly promote startup creation** when inventors are interested in being founders or collaborating with founders, recognizing that startups are often the best or only option for commercializing new technologies:
 - a) By **providing essential supports for USask founders to start companies**, through a University-based entrepreneurship and startup incubator and through connections to other supports in the broader ecosystem.

- b) Recognizing that technology used as the platform for startups is often at an early stage of development and closely related to inventors' ongoing research interest, the University understands that **further technology development will often be necessary using University facilities** during the process of technology commercialization; the University works with inventors to accommodate this work and create a plan for timely graduation to external facilities.
4. To ensure all partners experience the University as **transparent, consistent, responsive, timely and motivated to make mutually beneficial deals**, including being more **flexible and speedier** in how we deal with industry and other partners on sponsored research and technology licenses.
5. To **embrace *manacihitowin***, strengthening bonds of respect, trust and shared benefit through constructive, collaborative processes with Indigenous communities, organizations, entrepreneurs and researchers, including:
 - a) Acknowledging that typical forms of IP protection and mobilization are based on western worldviews, values, legal systems and concepts that are often incompatible with Indigenous knowledges and cultural expressions; and
 - b) Recognizing and **respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples** as set out in Article 31 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: *Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.*
6. To **advance equity, diversity and inclusion** by working for equitable involvement of women and Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) in the innovation ecosystem.
7. To recognize that the key driver of the University's technology-commercialization activities is not revenue generation but rather to **move discoveries out into the world for the benefit of society, the economy and the environment**.
8. While revenue generation is not what motivates technology-commercialization activities, to ensure that commercialization revenues are **reinvested to support high-quality research and innovation**.
9. To ensure the University is an environment in which ideas can flourish by:
 - a) **Preserving the rights of researchers**, in agreements with research sponsors and technology licensees, to determine the extent and timing of the communication of the results of their work; and
 - b) **Retaining rights to use IP for the purposes of further research, teaching and learning**, throughout all transactions, with the exception of service agreements.

Measures of Success

The University **measures the success** of its Inventions Management and Enterprise Creation Framework through evidence of:

- Improved IP literacy across the University and amongst our partners, including:
 - Increased awareness about technology transfer, licensing, enterprise creation, other IP mobilization options, and the supports and services available through the University;
 - Improved understanding of IP rights; and
 - Greater understanding and respect for Indigenous Knowledges and Cultural Expressions.
- A strengthened culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the University, including:
 - More researchers – including more women and BIPOC researchers – disclosing inventions and engaging in technology transfer and commercialization activities; and
 - Enhanced involvement of and support for inventors throughout the commercialization process, including the provision of incubation supports for startup companies.
- Amplified value and inspired communities, including:
 - More startup companies launching, growing, creating jobs and delivering solutions the world needs;
 - Greater deal flow, with more investment agreements for industry- and community-sponsored research activities and for technology licenses and options; and
 - More meaningful, reciprocal and equally engaged partnerships with Indigenous communities, organizations, entrepreneurs and researchers that strengthen bonds of respect, trust and shared benefit.