

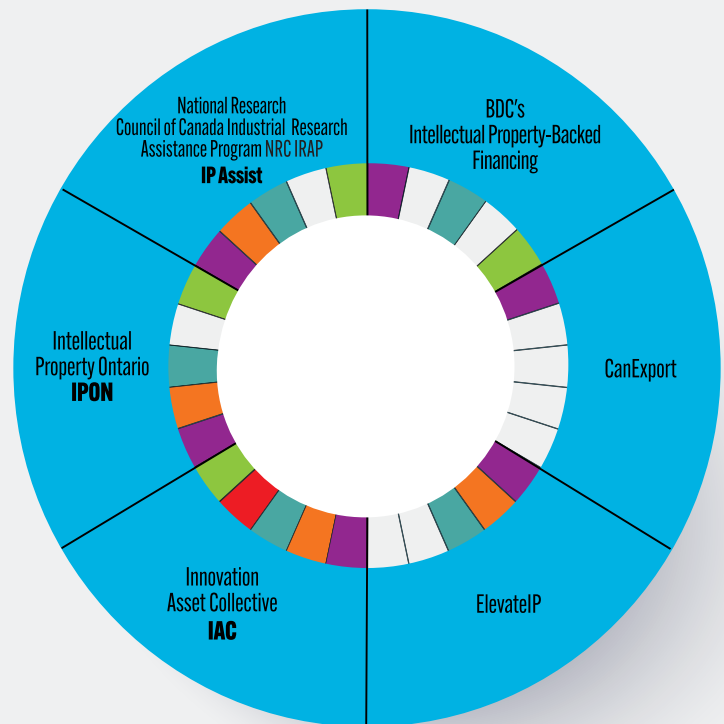
Ontario's IP Ecosystem Map

Click on each organization to see their full list of services.

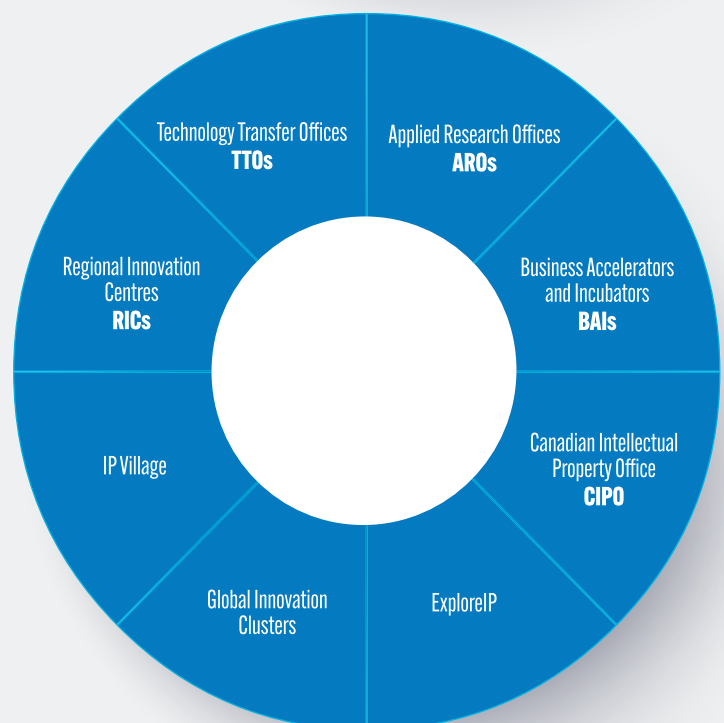
Looking for IP funding along with IP support?

COLOUR KEY

-  Funding for Legal and IP Services
-  1:1 Mentorship
-  IP Education
-  Patent Collective
-  IP Database/Intelligence



Looking for other IP-related support?



IP Funding along with IP Support

- BDC's Intellectual Property-Backed Financing
- CanExport
- ElevateIP
- Innovation Asset Collective (IAC)
- Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON)
- The National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program NRC IRAP (IP Assist)

BDC's Intellectual Property-Backed Financing

Intellectual Property-Backed Financing, by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), is a specialized program that offers financial support to companies boasting either emerging or established IP portfolios.

ELIGIBILITY

- Companies in all industries (subject to standard BDC client eligibility) are eligible.
- Companies are required to be strong, well-managed with sound IP strategies; have stable and growing revenues of at least \$5M; have ownership or license of patents, trademarks, trade secrets, proprietary software, data and copyright; and have a plan for global ambition.

MORE INFORMATION

-  [WEBSITE](#)
-  [CONTACT](#)
-  [LINKEDIN](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Funding for Legal and IP Services

- IP Development Loans (“IPDL’s”) are available to help fund the development, protection and monetization of IP portfolios.
- IPDL’s are intended for advisory, legal, insurance, account and tax, and other IP-related expenses (e.g. conferences, memberships, hiring of IP manager, etc.).
- IPDL’s are extended as an additional credit facility, of up to 10%, to an already authorized investment. For example, if a \$3M term loan is authorized for working capital, expansion or acquisition uses, then a \$300K IPDL will be authorized as well.

IP Education

- Introductions to IP strategy, monetization experts and service providers.
- Webinars in IP and fundraising.

IP Database/Intelligence

- Sharing of key insights on patent landscape.
- Sharing of IP due diligence.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE OFFERINGS

- \$2M – \$10M investments such as customized term debt, convertible debt and equity.
- Portfolio companies receive help in finding IP monetization, talent, further funding and commercialization opportunities.

CanExport

CanExport provides funding services to assist Canadian SMEs with international market development activities. CanExport supports travel and non-travel activities such as gathering market intelligence and applying for intellectual property protection.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a for-profit company
- An incorporated legal entity, limited liability partnership (LLP), or cooperative in Canada and must have a CRA number.
- Have fewer than 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.
- Must have declared annual revenue between \$100,000 and \$100 million in Canada during its last complete tax reporting year (or during the last 12 months for monthly and quarterly filers).

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Funding for Legal and IP Services

- Per project, the applicant may submit a maximum budget of \$100,000; the minimum budget is \$20,000. The program funds up to 50% of eligible costs for \$10,000 to \$50,000 in funding per project.
- For the IP Protection category, eligible expense include:
 - Expert or legal advice and services related to IP for foreign markets, including developing an IP strategy, drafting an application, requesting an examination, responding to an office action, conducting an IP search, providing an IP opinion, drafting a non-disclosure agreement, or conducting an IP white space analysis.
 - Filing and registration fees for formal IP protection in foreign markets.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

ElevateIP

ElevateIP is delivered in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan by Communitech with project partners Invest Ottawa and North Forge. ElevateIP is a federally funded, nationwide project designed to help business accelerators and incubators provide the tools Canadian startups need to understand, strategically manage and leverage their intellectual property.

ELIGIBILITY

- A Canadian-Controlled Private Corporation (CCPC) with less than 500 employees.
- Headquartered in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- IP must be owned by the startup, not an individual.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [EMAIL](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Funding for Legal and IP Services

- Up to \$25,000 in support for activities related to IP strategy development.
- Up to \$100,000* in support to undertake IP strategy implementation (10-35% co-investment requirement).

* Each startup can only receive \$100,000 in total across all ElevateIP funded activities.

1:1 Mentorship

- 1:1 mentorship and coaching to help startups access the resources required for IP strategy development and implementation.

IP Education

- Access to national, provincial and regional IP education and awareness resources.
- Access to support from IP experts and service providers to develop, validate and implement IP strategies.

Innovation Asset Collective (IAC)

IAC is a member-based not-for-profit funded by the federal government's Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) department to improve the ability of Canadian companies to implement IP strategies that create global business advantage and increase access to global markets by mitigating risks impacting their freedom to operate (FTO). Through its programs, IAC helps SMEs establish ownership positions on IP rights to bridge the gap between their current R&D and future commercial success.

ELIGIBILITY

- Canadian data-driven cleantech companies have access to IACs services through:

Associate Membership: This is a complimentary tier limited to companies with less than 25 employees and \$500,000 in annual revenue. Associate members have access to select IAC programming.

Full Membership: This tier has a fee of \$15,000* per year, fully reimbursable in the form of IP credits, and provides access to all of IAC's programs.

*Annually (pro-rated per quarter)

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [EMAIL](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Funding for Legal and IP Services

- IP funding comes from IP credits and IP grants.
- IP credits: members can get reimbursed for IP-related expenses up to a maximum amount equal to their membership fee each fiscal year.
- Three IP Grant programs (amounts are subject to change):
 - **Full Members:** awards from \$5,000 to \$20,000
 - **Associate Members:** awards from \$5,000 to \$10,000
 - **Women in IP Grant:** awards from \$5,000 to \$10,000

1:1 Mentorship

- Access to IAC's team of IP experts including four members of IAM's Strategy 300 for 1:1 mentoring and workshops.

IP Education

- Advanced IP learning pathways designed by IP, business, and learning experts, customized to suit business objectives.
- IAC leverages the IP Maturity Framework (TM), a new tool designed to evaluate a company's IP sophistication.
- The IAC IP Education Hub contains a growing library of resources.

Patent Collective

- A collection of IAC-owned patents accessible by full members to reduce barriers to commercialization and support business growth, for example, by providing the ability to negotiate better cross-licensing terms with large multi-nationals.

IP Database/Intelligence

- Published quarterly, IP Intelligence reports blending market, patent and technology insights provided quarterly, along with access to patent databases.

IP INSURANCE

- Eligible Full Members have access to IP Liability insurance to cover costs related to IP infringement defense and IP enforcement.

Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON)

IPON provides IP supports and services to assist businesses and researchers in Ontario to innovate and grow. IPON works directly with clients and postsecondary institutions to better understand how to protect and maximize the value of their IP, strengthen their capacity to grow, compete in the market, and advance the province's economic growth.

ELIGIBILITY

- Ontario SMEs with fewer than 500 full-time employees; operating in Ontario; researchers or entrepreneurs.
- Business controlled, directly or indirectly, by a Canadian.
- Are part of IPON's served sectors – MedTech and life sciences, artificial intelligence, vehicle technology, mining and advanced manufacturing.
- Read [IPON's Eligibility By-law](#) for more information.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [EMAIL](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Funding for Legal and IP Services

- Currently up to \$35,000 in up-front funding for IP protection and commercialization services; access to funding calls of up to \$100,000, along with other special, time-limited offers.
- IPON covers up to 80% of eligible costs (higher % for special, time-limited offers). This includes for services such as IP strategy, competitive analysis, IP drafting and filing, contractual support, IP audits, IP valuation, and licensing.
- IPON uses a roster of vetted IP service providers (e.g. IP lawyers and agents).

1:1 Mentorship

- 1:1 mentorship to match clients with mentors who have lived IP and commercialization expertise.
- Tiger Team provides access to a group of highly specialized lawyers with a global reach who provide legal information for next steps on urgent, IP-specific business critical issues.

IP Education

- [Foundational IP education](#) via free self-guided course and case study webinar.
- Free public events and online resources.
- Micro-credentials are digital badges awarded to clients to showcase their successful completion of a learning milestone.
- Advanced educational courses provide learners with module-based e-learning courses on topics tailored to advance clients' IP knowledge.

IP Database/Intelligence

- IP Benchmarking identifies clients' "IP health" by conducting a review of their IP strategy, assets and processes.
- IP patent landscaping reports provide an overview of patent filings for a specific technology or industry.

The National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program NRC IRAP (IP Assist)

The IP Assist program provides advisory services and funding to support NRC IRAP high-growth innovative Canadian businesses.

ELIGIBILITY

- IP Assist funding is directed to **existing NRC IRAP clients**.
- NRC IRAP client firms can reach out to their industrial technology advisory (ITA) for more information about IP Assist.

MORE INFORMATION

-  [WEBSITE](#)
-  [EMAIL](#)
-  [LINKEDIN](#)

Innovation Factory

-  [WEBSITE](#)
-  [EMAIL](#)
-  [LINKEDIN](#)

MaRS

-  [WEBSITE](#)
-  [EMAIL](#)
-  [LINKEDIN](#)

Invest Ottawa

-  [WEBSITE](#)
-  [EMAIL](#)
-  [LINKEDIN](#)

Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC)

-  [WEBSITE](#)
-  [EMAIL](#)
-  [LINKEDIN](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

ITAs work with their client firms to provide the needed IP support across three levels. Program fund vs applicant fund depends on specific expenses:

IP Assist programs are also being delivered by the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), Invest Ottawa, Innovation Factory and MaRS, all of whom support IP Assist L1 and L2 engagements.

Funding for Legal and IP Services

- IP Assist Level 2 (IP Strategy) and Level 3 (IP Action) funding provided to firms. Project funding amounts depend on project objectives.
- IP Assist projects are not limited to, but may include development, validation or updating of a firm-specific IP strategy, IP landscape assessments, patent and trademark searches, patentability analysis, IP commercialization strategy, competitive IP review, review of IP related agreements and contracts. Currently, IP Assist does not support patenting costs or legal opinions.

1:1 Mentorship

- NRC IRAP Industrial Technology Advisors (ITAs) provide 1:1 mentorship and guidance to NRC IRAP SMEs.

IP Education

- IP Assist IP Awareness (Level 1) provides IP education and industry specific IP insights, with no associated funding.

IP Database/Intelligence

- IP Assist projects can provide technology and competitive IP landscape that can provide NRC IRAP firms with valuable insights on relevant technologies and industries.

Other IP-related Support

- Applied Research Offices (AROs)
- Business Accelerators and Incubators (BAIs)
- Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO)
- ExploreIP
- Global Innovation Clusters
- IP Village
- Regional Innovation Centres (RICs)
- Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs)

Applied Research Offices (AROs)

AROs are located at Ontario colleges and foster partnerships between academia and industry to address real-world challenges, encourage innovative solutions, and drive economic growth in the region.

ELIGIBILITY

- Student entrepreneurs
- Researchers and academics
- Startups and entrepreneurs
- Industry partners
- Investors

MORE INFORMATION

- See a specific [Ontario college's website](#) to learn more.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

AROs typically offer a range of services to support SMEs. Note that each ARO offers different services (see a specific Ontario college's website to learn more):

- Research and development support.
- Access to funding opportunities for the R&D project.
- Innovation and problem solving.
- Entrepreneurial programs providing mentoring, space, and training opportunities.

Business Accelerators and Incubators (BAIs)

BAIs are organizations that support the development and growth of startups and early-stage companies. Although they share similar goals, they have distinct functions and structures. Many BAIs are located in universities.

ELIGIBILITY

- Startups and entrepreneurs in Canada.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [EMAIL](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Services provided by BAIs often vary but can include (but not limited to):

- Funding for legal and IP protection.
- Access to IP mentorship.
- IP education and training.
- IP Database Tool (market access).
- Incubation and office space.
- Industry-specific support and access.
- Networking and connection building.

Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO)

CIPO is the primary organization responsible for handling IP matters in Canada. CIPO offers valuable IP educational and practical resources, including application process information and roadmaps, e-learning modules, examination manuals, and comprehensive guides for accessing and searching their IP databases.

ELIGIBILITY

- Accessible by anyone.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [CONTACT](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

- [IP education](#) through a suite of online tools as well as services such as free webinars.
- Have [IP advisors](#) who help SMEs understand the value of IP and how to develop an IP strategy aligned with business goals.
- IP database tool: focused on Canadian IP rights and Canadian IP data.

ExploreIP

ExploreIP, by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), is a tool to help facilitate licensing and collaboration opportunities between businesses, entrepreneurs, innovators and public sector patent holders.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Institutions eligible to list IP opportunities on ExploreIP** include post-secondary institutions, federal departments and agencies, hospital research institutes, and other organizations that receive as significant portion of their funding from government, conduct research with government, and/or receive input into their research from a public sector institution.
- **Users of the ExploreIP** can include anyone, but the platform is geared towards helping Canadian businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators identify opportunities for collaboration.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

- ExploreIP is a comprehensive online marketplace that facilitates connections between creators and holders of IP from public sector institutions and potential users of IP, such as entrepreneurs and Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The platform makes IP easily searchable by businesses and other users through a user-friendly interface and multiple search options. It also displays valuable information such as licensing status and allows users to connect directory with the IP holder to explore opportunities for collaboration.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [EMAIL](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

Global Innovation Clusters

Canada's five global innovation clusters (digital technology, protein industries, advanced manufacturing, scale AI and ocean) support the growth and scale-up of Canadian SMEs. A standout element of the program by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is its focus on strategic management of IP, incorporating an IP strategy, in-house IP manager, and IP registry for members to access and protect their innovative assets effectively.

ELIGIBILITY

- Membership* is open to all Canadian organizations.
- Each cluster includes technology innovators, industry leaders, Indigenous groups, academia, researchers, customer stakeholders, non-profits, and public stakeholders.
- Although each Cluster is headquartered in a different region, all five clusters have members and fund projects across the country.

* Each cluster has its own application process.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

- Provides co-investment for consortiums of company to develop technology leadership projects and support to promote innovation, commercialization and the growth of SMEs, as well as new partnerships. Funding is dependent upon the program stream of each cluster (see websites for more detail).
- Provides IP mentorship through each cluster.
- IP Education is available by each cluster through webinars, blog posts, educational videos, IP touch points with cluster staff and advisors.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [CONTACT](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

IP Village

Through joint expertise and resources, the IP Village aims to help Canadian businesses better understand how to use IP more effectively. The IP Village is a result of a collaboration between the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS), the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED).

ELIGIBILITY

- Accessible by anyone but geared towards Canadian businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

- Partners in the IP Village provide advice and support for Canadian entrepreneurs and SMEs.
- IP education through IP discussion sessions, IP insights and webinars.

MORE INFORMATION

 [WEBSITE](#)

 [LINKEDIN](#)

Regional Innovation Centres (RICs)

RICs are innovation hubs in Ontario, comprising a network of 17 distinct centres, often with a specialized sector focus and unique capacity. RICs serve as vital points for fostering the growth and development of startup companies and entrepreneurs across the province.

ELIGIBILITY

- Ontario startups, SMEs and entrepreneurs.
-

MORE INFORMATION

- See a specific [Ontario RIC website](#) to learn more.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Services provided by RICs vary but can include:

- IP funding for legal and IP protection.
- IP education.
- Industry-specific support including mentorship.
- Incubation and co-working spaces.
- Networking and connection building.

Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs)

TTOs are responsible for technology transfer and other aspects of the commercialization of research that takes place in a university.

ELIGIBILITY

- Student entrepreneurs
- Researchers and academics
- Startups and entrepreneurs
- Industry partners
- Investors

MORE INFORMATION

- See a specific [Ontario university's website](#) to learn more.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Services provided by TTOs vary but can include:

- Access to funding opportunities.
- IP education programs for faculty and students are available through many universities. For example, University of Toronto offers [Level 1: IP Foundations](#) through its public, bilingual IP Education Program.
- Evaluation of inventions.
- Patenting.
- Technology licensing.
- Entrepreneurial programs providing mentoring, space, and training opportunities.

For more information,
please visit:
www.ip-ontario.ca

Intellectual Property Ontario
210-137 Glasgow St., Unit 140
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4X8

