



# COMMERCIALIZATION MANDATE POLICY FRAMEWORK

St. Clair College Research and Innovation

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## St. Clair College – Research & Innovation

### *In Correspondence with St. Clair College’s Institutional Requirements Under the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework*

St. Clair College is committed to supporting the Province of Ontario’s goal of strengthening the generation, protection, and commercialization of intellectual property (IP) developed within publicly assisted postsecondary institutions. As part of this provincial direction, Research & Innovation (R&I) plays a central role in advancing St. Clair College’s institutional responsibilities under Ontario’s Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework.

This communication outlines St. Clair College’s compliance with the Framework and provides an update on current and planned commercialization activities led by Research & Innovation in collaboration with academic and community partners.

### 1. Background: Ontario’s Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework

In response to the recommendations of Ontario’s Expert Panel on Intellectual Property, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities released the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework (CMPF) as part of the provincial Intellectual Property Action Plan. The Framework strengthens Ontario’s approach to generating, protecting, and commercializing IP, including IP arising from college-based applied research and innovation activities.

The CMPF requires each publicly assisted institution to:

1. Develop and publicly post an institutional Commercialization Policy
2. Develop and publicly post an Annual Commercialization Plan (ACP)
3. Demonstrate year-over-year progress toward commercialization capacity
4. Engage with Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON) and contribute to sector-wide commercialization metrics

St. Clair College recognizes the importance of this Framework in enabling “Ontario-made” innovation to benefit Ontario’s economy, industries, and communities.

### 2. St. Clair College’s Approach: Research & Innovation as the Operational Lead

St. Clair College has designated Research & Innovation (R&I) as the operational lead responsible for guiding, developing, and implementing commercialization practices across the institution.

As a central hub connecting:



- Students
- Faculty
- Industry partners
- Community stakeholders
- External innovation organizations

R&I supports St. Clair College in meeting its obligations under the provincial Framework while building internal capacity for future commercialization activities.

### 3. Institutional Commitments

To align with provincial expectations, St. Clair College commits to:

#### **A. Strengthening IP Awareness and Education**

- Distributing free IP and commercialization resources across academic schools, research teams, and student innovation programs
- Integrating commercialization awareness into events such as the Ford Innovation Showcase and building working groups that involve IP and Commercialization expertise.
- Sharing sector-leading best practices learned from IPON, Lambton College, Fanshawe College, and WEtech Alliance

#### **B. Building Internal Commercialization Infrastructure**

- Developing an institution-wide Commercialization Policy
- Creating Annual Commercialization Plans through R&I
- Launching foundational commercialization tools such as an Invention Disclosure Form (IDF)
- Establishing early-stage commercialization triage for applied research projects

#### **C. Supporting Collaboration Across the College**

- Engaging academic departments to support IP identification in student and faculty-led innovations
- Supporting cross-college committees during student showcases and competitions
- Ensuring all stakeholders have access to training resources

#### **D. Participating in Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem**

St. Clair College, through R&I, is actively engaged in:



- IPON sector learning
- Ecosystem conversations with Lambton and Fanshawe Colleges
- Commercialization pathway development with WEtech Alliance
- Regional innovation through Invest Windsor Essex and others

These partnerships provide St. Clair with the support and expertise needed to implement the CMPF in a phased, responsible way.

## 4. Annual Commercialization Plan Development

St. Clair College's Annual Commercialization Plan (ACP) is developed and stewarded by Research & Innovation. The ACP:

- Demonstrates foundational commercialization activities already underway
- Outlines new commercialization-building actions for the upcoming year
- Identifies multi-year goals where full implementation will occur in phases (through 2026)
- Aligns with provincial expectations on transparency, reporting, and performance metrics

R&I ensures that the ACP remains consistent with the College's strategic priorities and institutional commitments.

## 5. Multi-Year, Phased Implementation

Recognizing institutional diversity and capacity differences across Ontario colleges, the CMPF allows phased implementation. St. Clair College's approach includes:

### **2024–2025 – Capacity Building Phase**

- Drafting commercialization workflows
- Launching IP awareness activities
- Beginning pilot disclosures
- Screening Ford Innovation Showcase projects for innovation potential
- Engaging in sector learning with IPON
- Strengthening ecosystem relationships

### **Early 2026 – Full Implementation Phase**

- Launch of a standardized commercialization workflow
- Introduction of commercialization support pathways (WEtech, OCI, IPON referrals)



- Integration of commercialization reviews into applied research operations
- Establishment of a commercialization dashboard and reporting system

This phased timeline is fully compliant with the CMPF.

## 6. Ongoing Reporting and Transparency

St. Clair College will:

- Publicly post its Commercialization Policy
- Publicly post its Annual Commercialization Plans
- Report commercialization outcomes annually
- Adopt metrics co-developed through IPON's sector-working group
- Ensure transparent communication with stakeholders

Research & Innovation will continue to provide updates to senior leadership, academic schools, community partners, and the Board.

## 7. Conclusion

St. Clair College, through its Research & Innovation Department, is fully committed to strengthening commercialization capacity in alignment with Ontario's Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework. Using a phased and strategic approach, the College is building the foundation necessary for commercialization success while ensuring that innovations developed at St. Clair continue to support Ontario's economic growth and community well-being. Research & Innovation will continue to lead this work in coordination with academic departments, industry partners, and regional innovation organizations.