

Annual Commercialization Plan – Year 2

IP Development and Commercialization Successes

Confederation College has continued to expand its capacity and role in the development and commercialization of IP, successfully aligning with the objectives of the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework (CMPF). Our institution has supported this framework through programmatic development and impactful collaborations with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Northwestern Ontario, driving both regional and broader innovation ecosystems forward.

One of this year's successes has been the strategic focus on enhancing commercialization opportunities supported by our postsecondary institution. This has been vividly demonstrated through our collaborations with local SMEs, where Confederation College leverages its infrastructure and the expertise of its faculty and staff. The utilization of our Technology, Education, and Collaboration (TEC) Hub, the college's focal point for advanced manufacturing technology capabilities, has provided dozens of SMEs with the necessary infrastructure and expertise to advance their businesses—whether through functional prototyping, product modification, design, or other means. Through these collaborations, the SMEs utilized our cutting-edge research facilities and capitalized on the specialized skills of our student researchers and faculty advisors to advance their commercialization journeys.

These projects not only led to the creation of new products, process improvements, or designs but also provided a tangible demonstration of how Confederation College supports Ontario's innovation ecosystem. By facilitating IP development without retaining rights to the IP or commercial gains, we offer a unique value proposition to Ontario-based companies. This open approach ensures that the SMEs we partner with can fully capitalize on the IP developed, fostering a stronger inclination towards engaging in future collaborations with academic institutions.

Furthermore, our commitment to the CMPF is also evidenced in our educational programs. Each student researcher involved in projects receives IP and commercialization training as part of their personalized training plan. This initiative is designed to nurture their personal and professional development, equipping them with the necessary skills to become future innovators and entrepreneurs. The training aligns with CMPF objectives by improving IP literacy and promoting proactive engagement in IP management and commercialization processes.

In summary, Confederation College's approach during the 2023/2024 reporting period has been multifaceted and deeply integrated with CMPF objectives. By supporting SMEs in Northwestern Ontario, providing valuable IP rights and commercialization training, and aligning with provincial frameworks, we are not only advancing our institution's IP capabilities but also making a substantial contribution to the regional and provincial innovation ecosystems. This holistic strategy demonstrates our unwavering commitment to fostering an environment where intellectual property thrives and leads to successful commercial outcomes for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.