

Monday, July 17, 2017

Denis Martel
Director of Patent Policy; Strategy and Innovation Policy Sector
Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Re: Consultation for Canada's New Intellectual Property Strategy

Dear Mr. Martel,

We offer this consultation input on behalf of two organizations that deliver advanced computing technologies for research and innovation in Ontario, but which offer services and resources that support industry and researchers across Canada.

Compute Ontario is the provincial coordinator for advanced research computing and big data, and works to accelerate Advanced Research Computing (ARC) and competitiveness in Ontario for researchers across the country. SOSCIIP is a one-of-a-kind research and development consortium that pairs academic and industry researchers with advanced computing tools to fuel Canadian innovation. Working together, we help to deliver the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development's mandate to enhance Canada's innovation performance and facilitate economic growth and development.

As many of our stakeholders, including industry, academics, and institutions are directly affected by Intellectual Property (IP) policy we hope the following input is helpful as strategy is developed.

1. Improving Education, Awareness and Outreach

We believe that as a national strategy is developed, the approaches that have been developed in Ontario may work in other jurisdictions. Businesses and the IP industry are supported by services such as those offered by SOSCIIP, which creates jobs and drives innovation. While SOSCIIP primarily works with businesses based in Ontario, perhaps it might be a consideration for this program to expand to offices in other areas of Canada. In the five years of its operation, SOSCIIP has supported 62 small and medium-sized (SME) partners through the launch of 107 industry-academic collaborative R&D projects, which has contributed to job growth, innovation, IP, and skills-development. This level of

collaborative innovation aims to firmly position Ontario and Canada on the global stage for advanced computing research and development.

In addition, Ontario entrepreneurs have access to services, support, and expertise – including legal expertise – through the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE) Network, including a network of incubators such as Communitech, ventureLAB, The DMZ, and Invest Ottawa. Each incubator provides a different set of services and expertise to support entrepreneurs hoping to build businesses around IP. Again, it may be possible to collaborate with other provincial jurisdictions to encourage innovation and entrepreneurial hubs that can support government in ensuring strong understanding of IP policy.

2. IP Advice

As above, in Ontario, the ONE Network has been very successful in providing a mechanism for delivering IP advice. This regional network of support and resources has been instrumental in the success of Ontario academics and businesses. It requires continued investment from government and industry, and we recommend that as much as possible, similar infrastructure is considered in other regions across Canada.

3. Improving Access to IP

We believe that one of the most effective ways of improving access to IP would be to create a common inventory or marketplace of IP that is available within Canada to license or buy.

In addition, collaboration between industry and academic researchers provides a natural avenue for access to IP that is generated within our post-secondary institutions. Funding programs such as NSERC's suite of Partnership programs are fundamental to supporting collaborative R&D.

A cornerstone component of this is also continuing to support the training and ongoing skills development of highly-qualified personnel, including technical support staff, students, faculty, and post-docs. Innovation, IP, and advanced research computing are all part of a system. Without supporting the constantly evolving skill sets and professionals required to grow this important sector, any strategy will be incomplete.

4. Inclusiveness

Role models and representation matter. Any opportunity to highlight women, indigenous people, and other under-represented groups as scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs is critical to demonstrating to students at all levels that success is achievable and that there are seats at those tables. Both SOSCIP and Compute Ontario make it a priority to balance organizational needs with diversity within our teams. Further, we commend the Ministry and government for continuing to prioritize diversity and representation in policy and practice.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission in consultation for Canada's new intellectual property strategy. Compute Ontario and SOSCIP are committed to partnering with all stakeholders including government, academia, not-for-profit, and industry to support world-class innovation in Canada. Should you have any follow up questions on this submission, please do not hesitate to be in touch. We are pleased to be of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nizar Ladak".

Nizar Ladak
President & CEO
Compute Ontario

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elissa Strome".

Elissa Strome, PhD
Executive Director
SOSCIP