

Funding for IP strategy and protection for Canadian companies

June 02, 2023

Did you know that intangible assets, including intellectual property, likely account for up to 90 per cent of your company's total assets?

Do you struggle with finding budget and resources to invest in protecting your company's IP and data?

Funding is available to Canadian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for IP and IP strategy development. Some of the more common funding sources are outlined below.

The IP Assist program, from the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP), can be provided directly via an Industrial Technology Advisor (ITA), via a regional innovation centre (RIC), or via the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC). The IP Ontario funding window is currently closed, and is scheduled to reopen in late 2023, possibly with different parameters.

Funding Source	Eligibility	Amount Available
IP Assist (via NRC IRAP, IPIC or RICs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers IP strategy, not protection. Includes IP strategy development, patentability and landscape searches, review of IP aspects of contracts and agreements. 	Up to \$10k for Level 2 via IRAP, or \$18k via IPIC/RIC. Up to \$20k for Level 3 via IRAP. (Paid by company and 80 per cent reimbursed if via ITA, or paid directly by IPIC/RIC.) (Also \$1k for Level 1 education component.)
Innovation Asset Collective (IAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-driven cleantech companies Associate membership: free for early-stage start-up organizations (must have fewer than 25 	\$15k full membership fee = \$15k in IP spend credits. Additional funds available to distribute to successful applicants (\$100k bi-annually for

	<p>employees and less than \$500k annual revenue)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full membership: SMEs at start-up or scale-up phase of growth (and fewer than 500 employees) 	<p>associate, \$200k quarterly for full), plus women in IP grants.</p> <p>Additional supports including patent landscape reports and education available to member companies.</p>
<p>Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON) (<i>Funding window currently closed. Scheduled to re-open in late 2023, possibly with different parameters.</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI, automotive, MedTech companies • Company has some IP, and commits to protecting IP • Data-driven cleantech companies • Covers IP audits, strategy, protection (e.g. patent/TM filings) 	<p>Up to \$25k</p> <p>Additional supports and mentoring available to funded companies, including IP education and IP intelligence.</p>

Our team has worked with these organizations and the companies they serve to provide holistic, value-driven and proactive IP strategy services that are co-created to reduce business risk and support strategic growth, while increasing cost certainty and peace of mind.

There are also other existing and forthcoming programs including ElevateIP, which may provide eligible funding to directly or indirectly assist in funding IP strategy/protection.

Please contact our BLG IP team, including our IP Strategy team, for help in determining **how to best leverage available IP funding in a way that fits your company's current business strategy**. We can also provide details on other funding in addition to the common sources in the table above.

For further program details, consult the links below:

- IP Assist:
 - <https://nrc.canada.ca/index.php/en/support-technology-innovation/nrc-irap-support-intellectual-property>
 - <https://ipic.ca/resources/ip-assist-non-members>
- Innovation Asset Collective (IAC): <https://www.ipcollective.ca>
- Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON): <https://www.ip-ontario.ca/>
- Elevate IP: <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/elevateip/en>

Additional LifeSigns Articles

[Accounting of profits remedy for patent infringement in Canada](#)

[Canada's new excess claims fees vs double patenting](#)

[Navigating against headwinds in the life sciences capital markets](#)

[Precision medicine in an AI world](#)

[Quantum computing in the life sciences](#)

[Québec adopts its first comprehensive health privacy legislation](#)

[Stopping counterfeit goods at the Canadian Border](#)

[The Canadian legal landscape on AI enabled medical devices](#)

[Virtual care article update - April 2023](#)

By

[Curtis Behmann](#)

Expertise

[Health Law, Intellectual Property, Health Care & Life Sciences, Life Sciences](#)

BLG | Canada's Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 800 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

blg.com

BLG Offices

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500
F 403.266.1395

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160
F 613.230.8842

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555
F 514.879.9015

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to constitute legal advice, a complete statement of the law, or an opinion on any subject. No one should act upon it or refrain from acting without a thorough examination of the law after the facts of a specific situation are considered. You are urged to consult your legal adviser in cases of specific questions or concerns. BLG does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If this publication was sent to you by BLG and you do not wish to receive further publications from BLG, you may ask to remove your contact information from our mailing lists by emailing unsubscribe@blg.com or manage your subscription preferences at blg.com/MyPreferences. If you feel you have received this message in error please contact communications@blg.com. BLG's privacy policy for publications may be found at blg.com/en/privacy.

© 2026 Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is an Ontario Limited Liability Partnership.