

2020-2021
Year in Review

INNOVATION YORK



AGREEMENTS



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS



KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION



COMMERCIALIZATION



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Innovation York has a mandate to maximize the economic and societal impact of research and innovation outputs, as well as supporting startup ventures from ideation to growth.

Our Activity

590



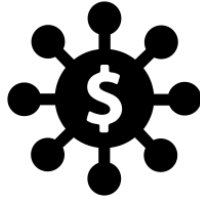
Agreements Reviewed

\$26.9M



Value of Agreements

128



Industry-Partnered Grants Supported

29



Community Projects Brokered

292



Experiential Education Opportunities

25



Invention Disclosures

\$398K



Commercialization Grant Funding

179



Start-up Ventures Supported

\$16.8M



Investment/Funding Raised by Ventures

296



Innovation York Workshops Hosted



Key Highlights



The Innovation York agreements team is always looking for ways to streamline and modernize operations for the Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation. In early 2020, the agreements team implemented an electronic signature process through DocuSign for all research agreements at York University, while partnering with the Division of Advancement to support their adoption of the system as well. Further, the team was able to act quickly in March 2020 when the pandemic forced the closure of the University, leveraging the workflows within DocuSign to build and implement an online system to facilitate the ORS Checklist electronically. These systems are key to Innovation York's commitment to service excellence.

Snap Inc.

This year Innovation York's VISTA commercialization team entered into a license deal with the company Snap (parent company of Snapchat) to provide non-exclusive access to a novel dataset of human movement data compiled by VISTA core member and Lassonde researcher, Niko Troje and his team. The dataset represents several years of motion and video capturing research, using various methods to accurately map three-dimensional human movement data. This will be used to train and enhance Snap's software to map avatar movement to the users movements in real-time to render the avatars more accurately and realistically, as well as enabling richer 3D visualization. The VISTA commercialization team led negotiations with Snap to secure the deal.

ySpace Venture Catalyst

This year, Innovation York's entrepreneurship hub, YSpace launched the Venture Catalyst program with the goal of supporting early-stage technology-based ventures and further ensuring equitable access to all programming for underrepresented populations. The program has built active grassroots level connections with diverse communities and surrounding support organizations such as Black Professionals in Tech Network and QueerTech. The first year of the program has been highly successful with:

- 45 first time founders supported
- 49% of the ventures lead by women
- 71% of the founders identifying as a BIPOC