



Canadian Intellectual  
Property Office

Office de la propriété  
intellectuelle du Canada

Canada

**2024**  

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**2025**

Canadian Intellectual  
Property Office

# Annual Report

This publication is also available online on CIPO's [Publications](#) page.

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PDF: lu71E-PDF

ISSN: 1702-935X

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# Message from the CEO



**Konstantinos Georgaras**  
Chief Executive Officer

As we close another remarkable year, I am truly grateful to everyone at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) for our collective achievements and the strides we have made in advancing intellectual property (IP) protection and innovation in Canada. The 2024–2025 fiscal year was a transformative period, marked by significant digital modernization, service enhancements and strategic international collaborations that have strengthened our role in the global IP ecosystem.

Innovation is a key driver of Canada's economic growth, and IP is playing an increasingly critical role in enhancing competitiveness. CIPO supports businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators by equipping them with the protection, knowledge and tools needed to leverage their ideas. In a time of rapid technological change and evolving global dynamics, securing timely, high-quality IP rights is more crucial than ever. CIPO is committed to ensuring that Canadian enterprises remain well positioned to navigate these complexities and seize emerging opportunities on the global stage.

One of the year's most significant achievements was the introduction of the Next Generation Patents (NGP) system, a major step forward in the digital transformation of our patent IT infrastructure. This system has transformed patent digital services, delivering a more intuitive, transparent and efficient experience for clients, and paving the way for long-term operational excellence.

We also made significant progress in reducing the trademark backlog and accelerating registration timelines. By implementing an ambitious strategy, leveraging new technologies and refining our processes, we are significantly improving service delivery and turnaround times. As of March 2025, our inventory of trademark applications awaiting examination had decreased by 42% year-over-year, while turnaround times for first actions had improved by 18%. Similar advancements were achieved in copyright and industrial design processes, where automation and system upgrades have streamlined workflows, ensuring a faster, more efficient and seamless client experience.

Beyond operational advancements, CIPO remains committed to empowering Canadian innovators through

education, data-driven insights and strategic collaboration. This year, we expanded our awareness and education efforts by introducing new digital learning resources, enhancing outreach initiatives and strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders across the innovation ecosystem. By providing the knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of the IP landscape, we not only promote the strategic use of IP, but we help drive innovation, bolster economic resilience and strengthen Canada's position in the global knowledge economy.

On the international front, we proudly marked 5 years since Canada joined the Madrid Protocol, the Nice Agreement and the Singapore Treaty—landmark trademark treaties that have streamlined access to

international markets for Canadian businesses and reinforced Canada's presence in the global IP landscape. Our ongoing collaborations with international IP offices play a vital role in driving best practices and enhancing the efficiency of the global IP system. We remain committed to advocating for Canada's interests, ensuring our IP framework remains competitive, adaptable and aligned with evolving global standards.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and expertise of our employees. Their unwavering commitment to service excellence and innovation continues to be the driving force behind CIPPO's success. Looking ahead, we will build on this momentum, embracing new technologies and strategies to further enhance our services and support Canada's economic growth through robust IP protection and leadership. I extend my sincere gratitude to our clients, partners and stakeholders for their important contributions. Together, we are shaping a future where IP serves as a catalyst for innovation, global competitiveness and economic prosperity.

## CIPO at a glance

CIPO is a special operating agency of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), responsible for administering and processing IP in Canada. With a team of over 1,300 dedicated employees, we provide high-quality services to Canadian businesses, innovators and creators. Operating under a revolving fund authority, CIPO is committed to transparency and accountability in all aspects of its operations. Our performance is rigorously monitored through multiple mechanisms, including this annual report to Parliament, client service standards and an independent financial audit conducted annually by a private-sector firm.





## Mission

To contribute to Canada's innovation and economic success by:



Providing greater certainty in the marketplace through high-quality and timely IP rights



Fostering and supporting invention and creativity through knowledge-sharing



Raising awareness to encourage innovators to better exploit IP



Helping businesses compete globally through international cooperation and the promotion of Canada's IP interests



Administering Canada's IP system and office efficiently and effectively



## Vision

Our leadership and expertise in IP support creativity, enhance innovation and contribute to economic success.

## Areas of activity



### Patents

A patent is a legal right to prevent others from making, using or selling an invention for up to 20 years. The invention can be:

- an article of manufacture (e.g. a door lock)
- a composition of matter (e.g. a chemical composition used in lubricants for door locks)
- a machine (e.g. a machine that makes door locks)
- a process or method (e.g. a method for making door locks)
- an improvement on any existing invention



### Industrial designs

An industrial design protects the non-functional visual features of shape, configuration, pattern or ornament or any combination of these features, applied to a finished article. In other words, industrial designs protect an article's distinctive appearance. An industrial design registration provides exclusive rights for up to 15 years.



### Trademarks

A trademark is used to distinguish the goods or services of a person or an organization from those of others. It can be any of the following or a combination thereof: words, designs, tastes, textures, moving images, modes of packaging, holograms, sounds, scents, 3-dimensional shapes and colours.

A registered trademark provides exclusive rights to use the trademark for a term of 10 years (renewable) and protects it under law from misuse by others.



### Geographical indications

A geographical indication identifies a product (such as wine, spirits, agricultural products or food) with a specific geographical origin and a quality or reputation attributable to that origin. The term of protection for a geographical indication is indefinite.



### Copyright

Copyright is the exclusive legal right to produce, reproduce, sell, license, publish or perform any of the following, as long as it is an original:

- literary work
- artistic work
- dramatic work
- musical work
- sound recording
- communication signal
- performance

Unlike other IP rights, a copyright subsists in an original work from the moment it is created. Generally, copyright protection lasts for the lifetime of the author, plus 70 years after their death. In Canada, a certificate of registration of copyright is evidence that copyright exists and that the person registered is the owner.

# CIPO's 2023–2028 Business Strategy

CIPO's 2023–2028 Business Strategy sets an ambitious vision to establish the organization as a leading IP office and a key driver of Canada's innovation economy. Centered around 3 core priorities, the Strategy provides a clear and results-driven framework to guide CIPO's initiatives, programs and activities, ensuring a strategic and focused approach to achieving our goals.

## Priority 1

**Timely delivery of quality IP services through operational excellence and a modern client experience**

- Render quality decisions that are consistent, predictable and reasonable
- Optimize turnaround times
- Modernize the client service experience



## Priority 2

**Foster innovation and competitiveness through leadership and education**

- Increase IP awareness, knowledge and effective use of IP by Canadians
- Provide leadership to improve the IP system in Canada and globally

## Priority 3

**Be a high-performing organization that is built for the future**

- Establish a modern and healthy workplace
- Recruit and develop a diverse and skilled workforce
- Pursue management excellence

# 2024–2025 by the numbers

## Patents

Statistics related to patents are unavailable due to the recent digital transformation of CIPO's patent information systems. Patent data for the 2024–2025 fiscal year will be highlighted separately in the 2025–2026 Annual Report.

### Patent Appeal Board



**27** rejected patent applications received at the Patent Appeal Board (PAB)

↘ **7%**



**22** Commissioner's decisions rendered by PAB

↗ **10%**



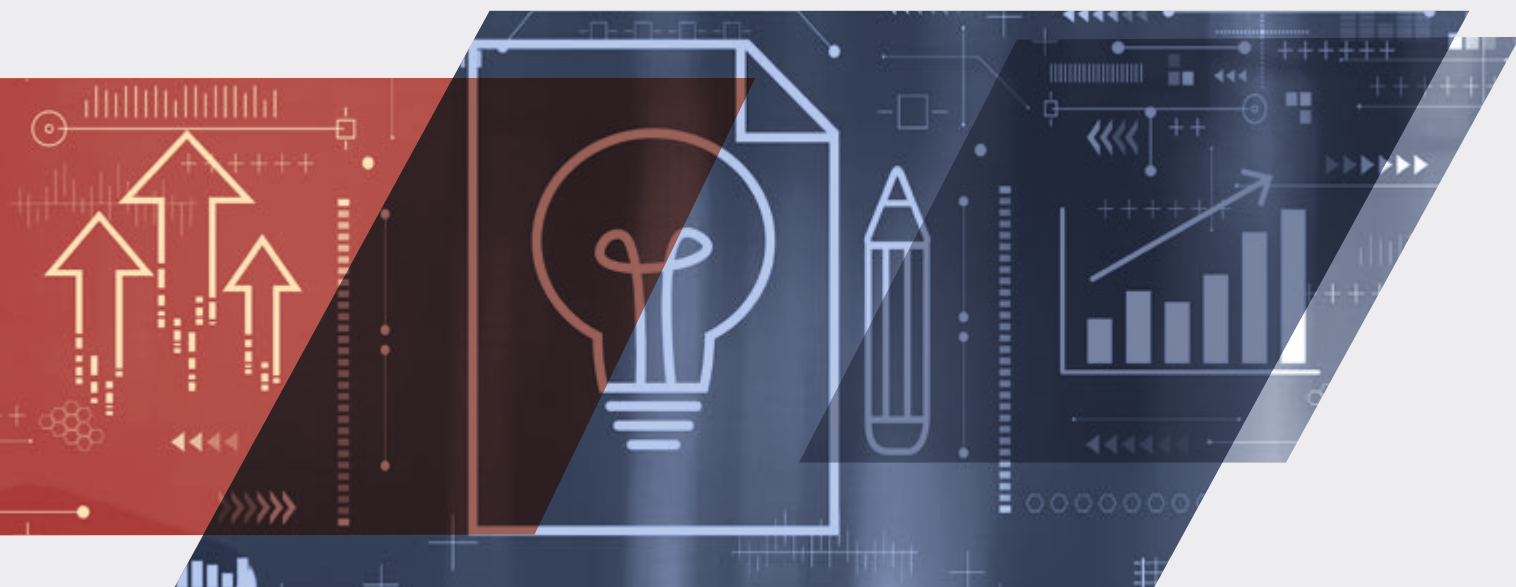
**34.9** months, on average, for issuing a decision on an appeal (up from 21.2 months in 2023–2024)



Increase from 2023–2024



Decrease from 2023–2024



# Trademarks

70,207

applications

↗ 2%

## Type of mark



Standard character

45,631

Design

24,179

Multi-type

117

Three-dimensional (3-D)

106

Colour

100

Position

29

Mode of packaging goods

18

Taste

10

Motion

5

Texture

5

Sound

4

Hologram

2

Scent

1



75,539

registrations

↗ 42%



34.5 months, on average, from filing to registration (up from 31.4 months in 2023–2024)



Increase from 2023–2024



Decrease from 2023–2024



## Celebrating 5 years of international trademark cooperation!

On June 17, 2024, Canada celebrated 5 years since joining the Madrid Protocol, the Nice Agreement and the Singapore Treaty—an important milestone in CIPO’s trademark journey. These treaties have significantly enhanced our capacity to register and manage trademarks internationally, opening new opportunities and strengthening global partnerships. The *Madrid Yearly Review 2024*, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), reaffirmed Canada’s success, highlighting its position as the fourth most designated jurisdiction for trademark applications worldwide. This accomplishment underscores Canada’s growing influence in the global trademark landscape and the trust that businesses internationally place in our system.

## 2024–2025 top trademark applicants

|                        |                             |                             |                                      |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| L’Oréal<br><b>243</b>  | IGT<br><b>123</b>           | Milwaukee Tool<br><b>85</b> | Boehringer<br>Ingelheim<br><b>64</b> | Play’n GO<br><b>59</b> |
| Novartis<br><b>158</b> | The Home Depot<br><b>99</b> | Scouts Canada<br><b>70</b>  | Simpson<br>Strong-Tie<br><b>60</b>   | BYD<br><b>56</b>       |

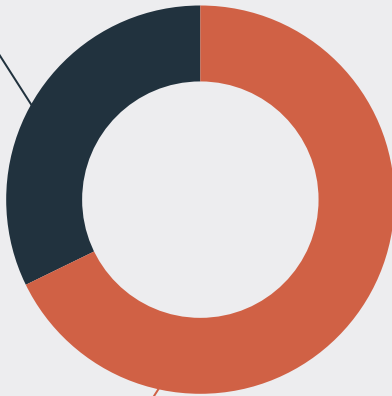
Countries of origin of trademark applications

22,471

Canada

47,736

Foreign countries



|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| United States of America | 17,948 |
| China                    | 10,348 |
| Germany                  | 2,041  |
| United Kingdom           | 2,005  |
| France                   | 1,821  |
| Japan                    | 1,442  |
| Switzerland              | 1,349  |
| Italy                    | 1,115  |
| Republic of Korea        | 1,013  |
| Australia                | 954    |

Use of the Madrid Protocol

21,786 international trademark applications received through the Madrid System

↗ 4%

827 trademark applications for international registration certified by CIPO as an office of origin

↗ 9%

↗ Increase from 2023–2024

↘ Decrease from 2023–2024

Trademarks oppositions



1,160  
oppositions

↗14%

- 76 opposition hearings held ↘15%
- 111 opposition decisions rendered ↘20%
- Average age of files reaching decision: 31 months (down from 34 months in 2023–2024)

923  
requests for  
expungement  
(section 45)

↗35%

- 541 (59%) trademarks automatically expunged since no evidence of use was filed by the registered owner
- 77 section 45 hearings held ↗26%
- 149 section 45 decisions rendered ↗13%
- Average age of files reaching decision: 17 months (up from 16 months in 2023–2024)



137 files awaiting a decision from the Trademarks  
Opposition Board

↗22%



4.2 months, on average, to schedule a hearing  
(down from 6.8 months in 2023–2024)

↗ Increase from 2023–2024

↘ Decrease from 2023–2024

## Industrial designs

**9,821**

applications

**↑11%**



**10,358**  
registrations

**↑34%**



**13.6** months, on average, from filing to allowance (down from 15.5 months in 2023–2024)

### 2024–2025 top industrial design applicants

|                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Roborock<br><b>198</b>       | Jani<br><b>105</b>      |
| Apple<br><b>132</b>          | Bugatti<br><b>104</b>   |
| Harry Winston<br><b>127</b>  | Wonderland<br><b>82</b> |
| LG Electronics<br><b>117</b> | Haleon<br><b>65</b>     |
| Philips<br><b>108</b>        | Polaris<br><b>61</b>    |

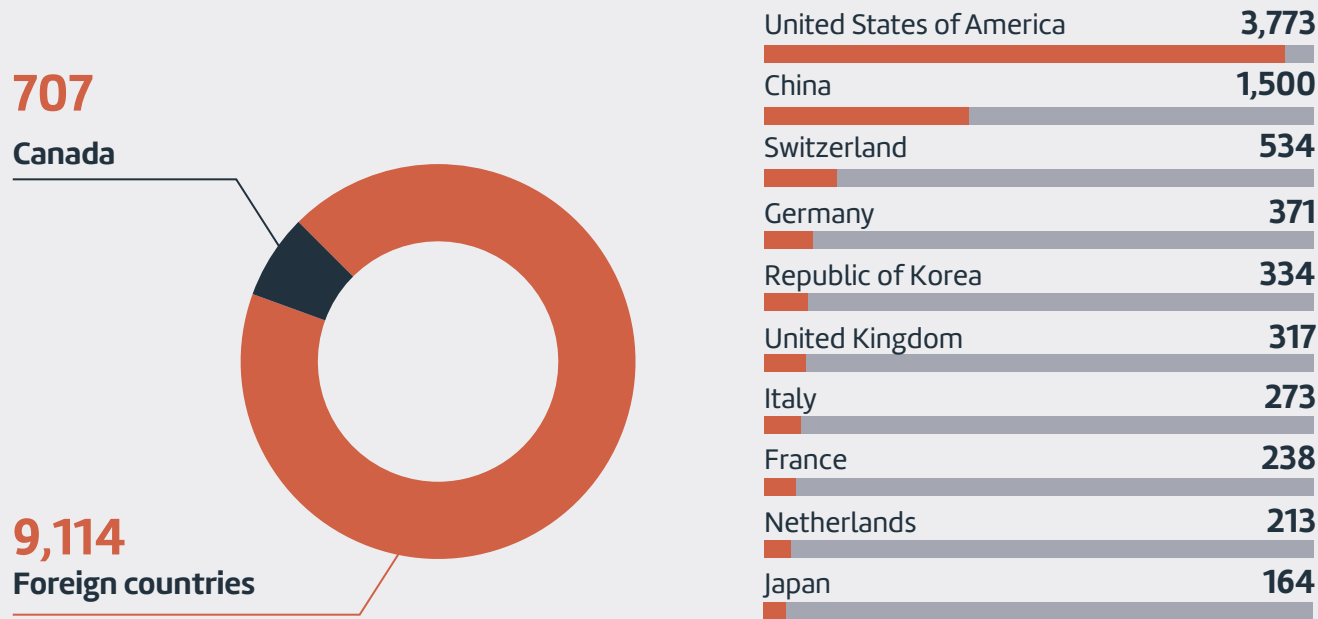


Increase from 2023–2024



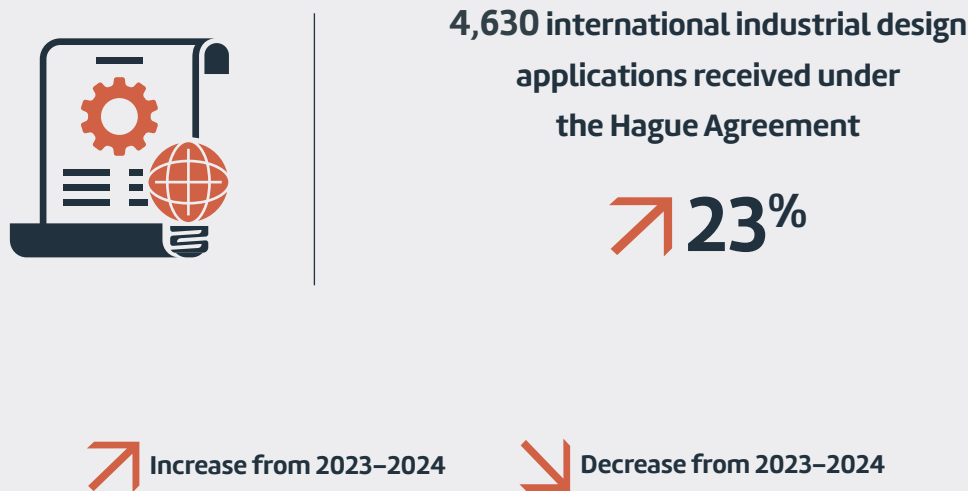
Decrease from 2023–2024

Countries of origin of industrial design applications



Note: Figures for industrial design applications do not include designs filed at WIPO that have not yet been received in Canada.

Use of the Hague Agreement



# Copyright

10,048

applications

↑ 6%

## Type of copyright



Literary  
4,722



Combination of literary, musical,  
dramatic or artistic  
1,232



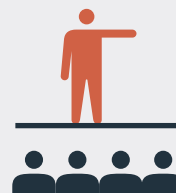
Artistic  
1,490



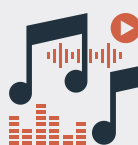
Sound recording  
619



Dramatic  
1,269



Performance  
44



Musical  
662



Communication signal  
10

10,110

registrations

↑ 7%

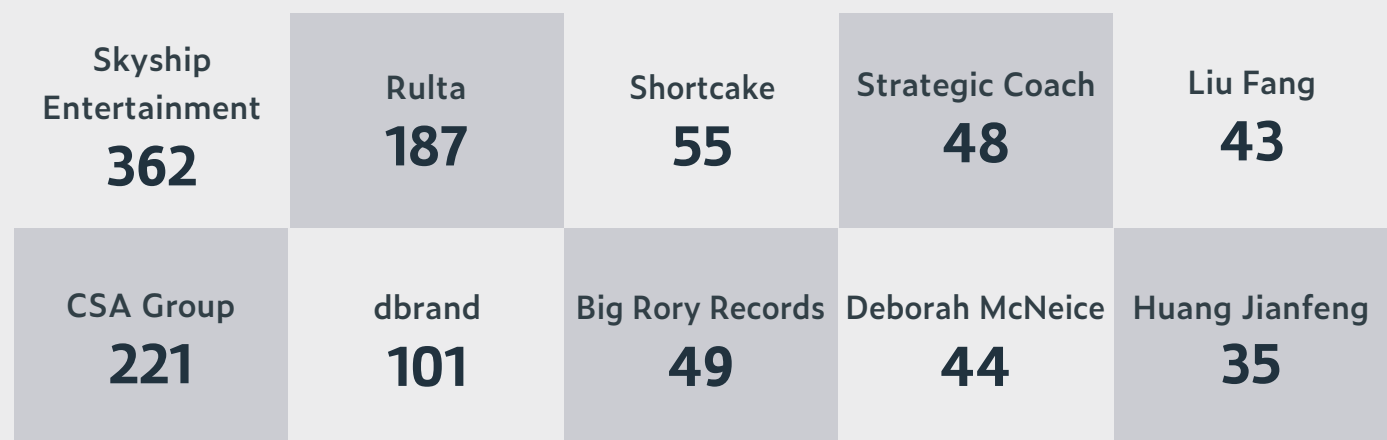


Increase from 2023–2024



Decrease from 2023–2024

2024–2025 top copyright applicants



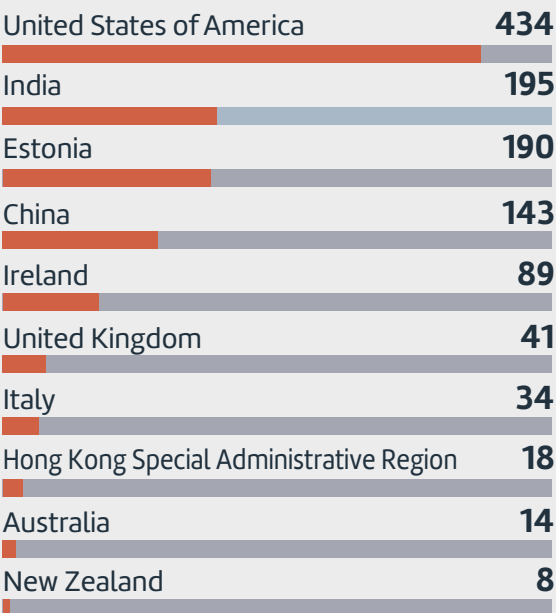
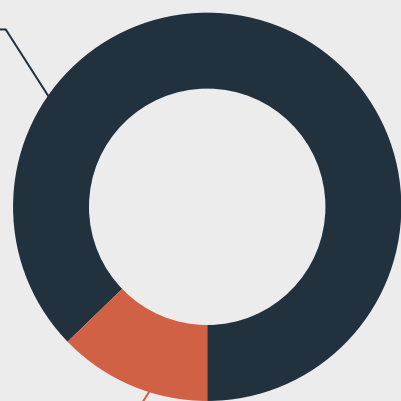
Countries of origin of copyright applications

8,782

Canada

1,266

Foreign countries



## Additional statistics



Additional statistics for fiscal year 2024–2025 are available on the CIPPO website.

- Financial information
- Product outputs and client enquiries
- Patents
- Trademarks
- Industrial designs
- Copyright

# Timely delivery of quality IP services through operational excellence and a modern client experience

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, knowledge and creativity are pivotal drivers of business growth and success. IP lies at the core of this momentum, empowering businesses and entrepreneurs to attract investments, strengthen market positions and expand internationally. CIPO's 2023–2028 Business Strategy underscores our commitment to the timely delivery of quality IP rights, providing innovators with the certainty they need to bring their ideas to life. Additionally, CIPO is focused on enhancing the client experience with seamless, digitally integrated services that evolve with the changing needs of today's innovators. By supporting clients throughout their IP journey, CIPO plays a vital role in fostering innovation, supporting commercialization and reinforcing Canada's position in the global marketplace.



# Rendering decisions that are consistent, predictable and reasonable

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CIPO's commitment to high-quality IP services and continuous improvement is demonstrated through our ISO 9001:2015 certification for patent processes, which was obtained in 2017 and successfully renewed in 2020 and 2023. This internationally recognized standard positions Canada alongside leading IP offices such as the European Patent Office (EPO) and IP Australia, reinforcing CIPO's reputation for excellence in patent administration. By adhering to strict quality management standards, CIPO ensures the consistent delivery of high-quality services, while enhancing stakeholder confidence in the Canadian patent system. The certification process involves rigorous annual audits and re-certification every 3 years, driving continuous improvement and operational excellence.

Building on a strong foundation in patent quality management, CIPO advanced the implementation of a quality management program for trademark processes in 2024–2025. Aligned with industry best practices, this initiative introduced a quality control framework to assess the consistency and accuracy of trademark decisions. New tools were developed to support quality evaluations, enabling the collection, monitoring and reporting of key data to drive continuous improvement. Insights gained from these quality evaluations have also informed targeted training material for trademark examiners. By enhancing the quality and consistency of trademark examination, CIPO is strengthening the predictability and reliability of its decisions. Looking ahead, efforts will be focused on finalizing a quality manual, completing a process-mapping initiative to further streamline operations and expanding the quality management program to industrial design examination.

CIPO's Goods and Services Manual (GSM) is an essential resource for applicants, helping them prepare accurate and comprehensive statements of goods and services when filing a Canadian trademark application. This searchable database features a list of pre-approved terms, classified

according to the latest edition of the Nice Classification, ensuring alignment with international organizations like WIPO and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and the TM5 ID List.

CIPO continually expands the GSM to meet the evolving needs of stakeholders and ensure harmonization with priority sectors and international partners. In the past year alone, 3,068 new entries were added to the GSM. In turn, these updates improve CIPO's Goods and Services Analysis Tool, which uses the GSM to inform its analysis and support more consistent, high-quality examinations. In 2024–2025, the goods and services analysis tool was enhanced with additional functionalities and an updated list of generic terms commonly misused as trademarks, further refining its accuracy.

This past year, CIPO also introduced the Specificity Guidelines for the GSM. These guidelines provide clear guidance on the level of specificity required by the Registrar for certain types of goods and services, helping applicants and agents draft more accurate and acceptable statements. By reducing the need for follow-up communications, the Specificity Guidelines accelerate the examination process, generate cost savings and enhance overall service delivery. They also serve as a valuable resource for examiners, fostering greater consistency and reliability in trademark examination.

In June 2024, CIPO implemented a change in practice regarding industrial designs applied to buildings or structures. Previously, CIPO maintained that designs applied to buildings or structures were not registrable, as they were not considered finished articles to which a design could be applied. Following a thorough review of the industrial design legislative framework and relevant case law, CIPO now recognizes that buildings and

structures, including those constructed on-site, can be considered acceptable finished articles eligible for design protection. This revised practice reflects international best practice and fosters innovation and creativity in Canada, incentivizing innovators to develop new designs for buildings and structures with the added benefit of having industrial design protection available.

Following public consultation and an extensive pilot project, CIPO formalized a change in practice regarding industrial design refusal decision-making. Refusal decisions are now reviewed by a subject-matter expert from the Trademarks and Industrial Designs Branch (TIDB) rather than by PAB. Additionally, the Notice of Possible Refusal has been replaced with a Final Examination Report, which outlines any outstanding objections to registration and invites the applicant to submit final arguments in writing. If arguments are received, the application is reviewed by a subject-matter expert from TIDB. These changes seek to enhance consistency in industrial design decisions while improving efficiency by minimizing unnecessary reviews and refusals.

In January 2025, the Trademarks Opposition Board (TMOB) launched a pilot project during which the Registrar of Trademarks will proactively issue notices under section 45 of the *Trademarks Act* against randomly selected trademark registrations that have been on the Register for over 3 years. These notices will require trademark owners to provide evidence demonstrating use of the trademark, or special circumstances excusing the absence of use, in order to maintain their registration. This initiative aligns with the Registrar's goal of maintaining an accurate and up-to-date Register of Trademarks by ensuring it only includes trademarks that are actively used, along with their correctly associated goods and services. By identifying trademarks that are no longer in use, the project aims to preserve the integrity of the trademark system, promote fair competition and facilitate access to new trademarks. The insights gained from this pilot will guide future efforts to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of the Register of Trademarks.



## Fostering excellence in client service delivery

CIPO's Client Service Centre (CSC) serves as the primary point of contact for individuals and businesses seeking general IP information. Our information agents assist clients with inquiries, process document requests and collect feedback to continuously enhance service delivery. In 2024–2025, our team successfully handled over 50,000 inquiries via phone, email and live chat. To maintain the highest standards of service, the CSC implemented a comprehensive Quality Assurance Program. This program evaluates agent performance across 4 key areas: solution accuracy, writing quality, professionalism and proper documentation. Beyond simply assessing performance, the program fosters continuous improvement by identifying opportunities for service enhancements, addressing training needs and guiding targeted coaching. By strengthening agent performance, the Quality Assurance Program ensures that every client receives clear, accurate and professional support with each interaction.

## Optimizing turnaround times

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In recent years, CIPO has implemented ambitious measures to reduce the inventory of pending trademark applications, streamline the examination process and align processing times with those of our major trading partners. These efforts have been driven by accelerated recruitment, enhancements to examiner work tools and investments in IT modernization. This resulted in significant reductions in the backlog and faster turnaround times. By March 2025, we celebrated the ninth consecutive month of reduced turnaround times for trademark registrations and the 15th consecutive month of decrease in the inventory of applications awaiting examination.

Over the past 2 years, our trademark inventory was reduced by 45%, highlighting CIPO's ongoing commitment to improving service delivery and operational efficiency.

CIPO also made significant strides in reducing the inventory of industrial design applications awaiting examination and improving client wait times, supported by an increase in examination capacity. In 2024–2025, the backlog of industrial design applications awaiting examination was reduced by 27%, and the average turnaround time from filing to first action decreased by 38%.

In May 2024, CIPO introduced automated pre-assessment letters for registered trademarks that include goods or services not yet classified under the Nice Classification system. These letters, which are sent approximately one year before the renewal due date, provide trademark owners with a list of suggested Nice classes deemed

acceptable. Despite the implementation of the Nice Agreement in June 2019, hundreds of thousands of Canadian trademark registrations still contain unclassified goods and services. While trademark owners can request classification updates at any time, many prefer to wait for CIPO's notice before renewal. By issuing pre-assessment letters, CIPO enhances efficiency, improves fee predictability and reduces unnecessary back-and-forth with clients.

To enhance transparency in the examination process and support clients in making more informed business decisions, CIPO now publishes on its website the filing dates of trademark and industrial design applications currently under review, as well as forecasted wait times for new trademark applications. This initiative provides applicants with a clearer picture of the status of their pending files and enables them to better anticipate processing timelines.

In 2020, CIPO's PAB initiated a pilot project aimed at streamlining the review of rejected patent applications, reducing the backlog and improving turnaround times. The pilot initially focused on electrical patent applications with a single non-statutory defect under section 2 of the *Patent Act*, assigning their review to a single panel member instead of the usual 3. Following the success and efficiency gains of the initial phase, the project was expanded to include all disciplines and applications with specific low-complexity defects, and will be made official next fiscal year.



# Modernizing the client service experience

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CIPO is committed to delivering efficient, digitally-enabled and client-focused services that adapt to evolving client expectations, IP legislation and industry practices. To achieve this, CIPO has fostered a culture of continuous improvement, proactively collecting client and stakeholder feedback to drive service enhancements and strengthen a client-centric approach. We regularly review our service offerings to identify opportunities for improvement, ensuring that we remain agile and responsive to changing needs.

## Building a stronger client service culture

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In January 2025, CIPO launched its new Service Strategy, a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing client satisfaction through a more consistent, efficient and modernized service experience. Developed with input from stakeholders, clients and employees, the Strategy seeks to optimize service delivery at every stage of interaction. It focuses on 4 key objectives: streamlining the application process, improving examination quality, ensuring timely decisions and empowering staff to exceed client expectations. A 3-year roadmap outlines specific actions to achieve these goals, driving significant improvements across our services. To track progress and guide continuous improvements, CIPO has implemented surveys at various service touchpoints to monitor trends and inform decision-making.

As part of these efforts, CIPO strengthened its Client Contact Database, the primary channel for clients to submit suggestions, compliments and complaints. In 2024–2025, CIPO improved the Database by requiring clients to select a theme when providing feedback. This structured approach enables better identification of trends and root causes, enhances analysis and supports targeted service improvements. To further strengthen this initiative, a dynamic dashboard now offers real-time insights into client feedback trends, including key themes and turnaround times. Additionally, standardized response templates were introduced for recurring feedback, ensuring greater consistency and efficiency in client communications.

Just as client feedback is essential for service improvements, employee contributions are equally important in driving innovation and service excellence within CIPO. The Great Ideas Database serves as a central platform for collecting employee insights on patent processes and services. This tool allows employees to submit ideas, tips and best practices, which are reviewed for potential implementation. Since the launch of NGP, the Database has become the primary channel for gathering suggestions related to the new system. In 2024–2025, more than 100 valuable ideas were submitted, many of which have already led to meaningful improvements in patent processes and services.

In 2024–2025, CIPO updated its client service training program to improve service delivery and better meet evolving client expectations. This initiative was shaped by insights from the 2022 Client Satisfaction Survey and focused on strengthening key service competencies, such as interpersonal communication and a commitment to going the “extra mile” for clients. To support this effort, CIPO introduced a curriculum that features core modules, providing essential client service skills for all employees, as well as specialized submodules tailored to specific operational areas.

Dedicated to service excellence and continuous improvement, CIPO’s CSC is transforming its inquiry management processes and reporting systems to enhance service delivery and efficiency. In 2024–2025, the CSC introduced monthly performance dashboards to more effectively track client behaviour and inquiry trends, enabling data-driven decision-making and targeted improvements. The implementation of a robust reporting system will foster greater collaboration across business lines by identifying emerging trends, challenges and opportunities.

# Advancing service excellence through modernized digital services

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Central to CIPO's Service Strategy is our multi-year Information Technology Modernization (ITM) program. This initiative is reshaping CIPO's digital ecosystem by enhancing online platforms, upgrading internal systems and streamlining tools for a more cohesive and accessible IP service experience. This modernization initiative is not only reducing the risks associated with old and obsolete systems, but also establishing a new benchmark for delivering innovative, user-centric IP services.

On July 17, 2024, CIPO launched NGP, a digital transformation initiative that modernizes and streamlines the entire patent process, from application to grant. Replacing outdated legacy systems, NGP is a fully integrated, cloud-based solution enhancing transparency and the overall user experience. The system consists of 3 key components: an intuitive online client portal; an IP rights management system that optimizes workflow processes; and a modernized financial platform.

At the heart of this initiative is MyCIPO Patents, a secure and user-friendly portal designed to simplify the filing and management of patent applications. With a strong focus on client needs, the platform offers a range of self-service capabilities, including data entry, real-time tracking, shared access and system-generated correspondence documents, resulting in a more streamlined and efficient experience.

Throughout the development of NGP, CIPO actively sought stakeholder input through engagement sessions, user experience testing and feedback questionnaires, using these valuable insights to refine and enhance the system. To keep clients informed, CIPO implemented a communications plan, which included regular web page updates, a weekly newsletter, informational webinars,

a user guide and targeted communications. Ongoing interactions provided stakeholders with timely guidance on system use, troubleshooting and issue resolution. By prioritizing clear communication and continuous support, CIPO minimized disruptions and effectively addressed user challenges.

The scale of this modernization was unprecedented. The implementation of NGP involved the seamless integration of more than 20 advanced technologies and the migration of data from 35 million patent documents and 85,000 active transactions, spanning more than 160 years of patent records. This monumental effort established NGP as one of the most significant digital transformations in CIPO's history. Just months after its launch, NGP is already delivering tangible benefits. As of March 2025, 88% of incoming patent transactions were processed through MyCIPO Patents, significantly reducing the general correspondence inventory and laying the foundation for enhanced operational efficiency in the future.

In 2024–2025, CIPO achieved another significant milestone with the launch of automated copyright registration. This new e-service enables real-time processing and immediate access to copyright registration certificates, which are securely stored in clients' transaction histories for easy retrieval and printing. By automating previously manual processes, the system boosts efficiency, enhances client convenience and optimizes resource allocation. Prior to automation, CIPO employees printed and mailed approximately 10,000 registration certificates each year. The transition to automated copyright registration not only streamlines operations but also represents a significant advancement in service delivery, while contributing to environmental sustainability.

Throughout the year, CIPO made significant enhancements to its trademark, TMOB and industrial design e-services to make them more user-friendly. The Trademark E-Services now feature pre-populated fields based on previously submitted text, along with a built-in validation tool to prevent ineligible requests. The Industrial Design E-Services platform was also upgraded with a reference number field, an improved digital shopping cart and the ability to manually input the number of representations submitted. In addition, the Canadian Industrial Designs Database help and assistance pages now provide a comprehensive list of application statuses and their definitions, addressing previous gaps in information. To further improve accessibility, CIPO also published a directory of all trademark and industrial design examiners, enabling clients to contact the relevant officials directly.

Likewise, the TMOB E-Services were enhanced by adding new features enabling clients to complete all required transactions, including submitting evidence on multiple files at the same time for both opposition and section 45 proceedings. The TMOB E-Services were also upgraded with new functionalities such as the ability to amend statements of opposition and counter statements, as well as requests for interlocutory rulings and cross-examination orders.

Building on these accomplishments, the TMOB began publishing interlocutory rulings on requests made pursuant to subsection 38(6) of the *Trademarks Act*

to strike all or part of a statement of opposition. To facilitate the search for this type of decision, the TMOB implemented a standardized, accessibility-compliant decision template for decision-makers, and now publishes these rulings in both official languages on the CIPO website. This initiative allows clients and Canadians to easily search and retrieve relevant rulings, promoting greater transparency and efficiency in the opposition process.

In 2021–2022, CIPO launched an ambitious legacy document digitization project to ensure the preservation and accessibility of valuable IP records. Significant progress has been made, including the successful digitization of the *Trademarks Journal* issues from 1954 to 1999, copyright index cards from 1939 to 1991, and industrial design index cards from 1917 to 2002. Additionally, 678 Canadian Patent Office Record files have been scanned, along with 254 microfilms containing copyright and industrial design records. The Trademarks Ledgers project, which involves digitizing 470 books dating from 1868 to 1957, is advancing steadily. Throughout this project, CIPO has maintained strict quality control and metadata management to ensure both accuracy and accessibility. By improving the search, access and retrieval of these records, the initiative will transform how users interact with IP documentation. As the project progresses, CIPO remains dedicated to making these digitized resources available online, preserving Canada's IP heritage for future generations.

# Foster innovation and competitiveness through leadership and education

CIPO plays a vital role in driving innovation and enhancing Canada's global competitiveness. By raising awareness, deepening understanding and promoting the strategic use of IP, we empower businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators to navigate the complexities of the IP system to maximize their potential. Our comprehensive research and data resources provide valuable insights that guide policy development, inform strategic business decisions and fuel innovation across industries. Through ongoing collaboration with domestic stakeholders and international partners, we advocate for Canada's IP interests and work to strengthen the global IP system—ensuring it remains accessible, resilient and adaptable to evolving challenges.





# Increasing IP awareness, knowledge and the effective use of IP by Canadians

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CIPO's IP Awareness and Education program provides businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators a suite of resources to help them navigate and leverage IP effectively. With a focus on high-growth small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and underrepresented groups, including women, Black and Indigenous entrepreneurs, the program provides practical tools and insights to support their success. By collaborating with over 120 partners, CIPO extends the reach of its initiatives, ensuring more Canadians have access to the knowledge and support needed to confidently manage and maximize their IP assets.

In 2024–2025, CIPO enhanced its IP education initiatives by adopting a more practical and engaging approach, and strengthening collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. Building on our extensive suite of online tools, we introduced new resources, including 3 additional episodes of the Canadian IP Voices podcast, 9 success stories showcasing the achievements of women and Black entrepreneurs, and 3 blog posts exploring industrial designs, certification marks and their connection to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our commitment to accessible IP education increased our reach and engagement, with our online tools and resources attracting over 220,000 web page views throughout the year.

We expanded our outreach efforts and delivered over 200 presentations in collaboration with partners on a wide range of IP topics—attracting more than 4,100 participants across Canada. CIPO also attended 59 conferences and trade shows, took part in over 500 stakeholder meetings

with 120 organizations, and provided personalized guidance to more than 600 entrepreneurs through our IP advisory service. Together, these initiatives empowered thousands of Canadian entrepreneurs and innovators to navigate the IP landscape with greater confidence.

In April 2024, World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD) highlighted the role of IP in driving innovation and creativity to achieve shared global objectives, particularly the SDGs. The campaign underscored how IP fosters progress in health, education, economic growth and climate action. To commemorate WIPD 2024, CIPO emphasized the impact of IP on sustainability by launching a dedicated web page showcasing a Canadian company's efforts to combat climate change, and publishing 2 blog posts exploring certification marks and their role in promoting sustainable practices.

Over the past year, CIPO focused on strengthening partnerships within the IP ecosystem by identifying collaboration gaps and fostering new connections. We engaged with hundreds of organizations—ranging from federal and provincial governments to incubators, accelerators, academic institutions and business associations—to broaden our social media reach, deliver training and presentations, and connect clients with key partners. New alliances were formed with small business centres, chambers of commerce and regional development agencies across the country. Our outreach



## CIPO's advisory services

CIPO's IP advisors offer tailored guidance to entrepreneurs and innovators across Canada, helping SMEs, intermediaries, post-secondary institutions and government stakeholders navigate the complexities of IP. In 2024–2025, they conducted 600 one-on-one meetings and provided hands-on support through seminars, events and personalized consultations, equipping Canadian businesses—particularly SMEs and underrepresented groups—with the tools to succeed in an innovation-driven economy. From IP fundamentals to strategic planning, IP advisors serve as a trusted resource for businesses taking their first steps in IP.

For more details on CIPO's advisory services, visit the [CIPO website](#).

efforts prioritized organizations supporting SMEs and underrepresented groups, including women, Black and Indigenous entrepreneurs, ensuring wider access to IP education and resources.

A key component of CIPO's outreach strategy is the IP Village, an initiative that unites leading organizations in Canada's IP ecosystem to assist SMEs in understanding, protecting and maximizing the value of their IP. This year, the IP Village collaborated at events, such as the 2024 Collision Conference in Toronto and Startupfest in Montréal, creating accessible spaces where entrepreneurs could connect with essential IP resources and expert guidance.

CIPO also partnered with the Israel Patent Office (ILPO) to launch the IP Management Clinic – FemTech, a 4-month program supporting SMEs and startups developing medical solutions for women's health and well-being. The initiative provided 8 Canadian and 12 Israeli startups with personalized mentoring from IP experts in both countries. Participants also had access to online training workshops co-hosted by CIPO, WIPO, ILPO and external IP specialists, equipping them with knowledge and tools to better leverage their IP. The clinic supported a diverse range of startups, including some developing eco-friendly menstrual products, cutting-edge health and fertility technologies and AI-driven analytics for tracking trends in women's health.



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## Celebrating and empowering diversity in innovation and entrepreneurship

As part of National Indigenous History Month 2024, CIPO launched a dedicated web page featuring IP resources tailored for Indigenous entrepreneurs and innovators. The page showcased inspiring success stories and provided links to funding opportunities and partner resources. To mark National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, we released a special episode of the Canadian IP Voices podcast, featuring Vincent de Grandpré from Bennett Jones, who explored the deep connection between Indigenous knowledge and IP law.

In October, for Women's History Month, we celebrated the vital role of women in driving innovation and entrepreneurship across Canada. Our website featured interviews with 3 remarkable professionals who shared their experiences in protecting their business assets with IP, with a special focus on the cleantech sector. Alongside these insights, we provided resources to support women entrepreneurs in growing their businesses and advancing gender diversity in the business world.

For Black History Month in February 2025, CIPO hosted "IP and Business Insights for Black Entrepreneurs," a hybrid networking event designed to empower Black business owners with valuable knowledge on IP and business strategies. Bringing together IP experts, entrepreneurs and organizations supporting Black businesses, the event offered guidance on navigating IP ownership, as well as access to essential resources, mentorship and networking opportunities. With over 150 participants, the event was a resounding success. To further support Black entrepreneurs in leveraging IP and scaling their businesses, we also launched a dedicated web page featuring learning materials, success stories and partner resources.

Building on this momentum, CIPO introduced its first IP bootcamps for women entrepreneurs and Black entrepreneurs in early 2025. Developed in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of African Canadian Economics, these pilot programs provided participants with the knowledge and practical skills needed to protect their innovations and scale their businesses. Through 5 interactive sessions, participants learned how to develop a strong IP strategy, explore funding opportunities and navigate the application process effectively.

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## Enhancing support for self-represented parties in Trademarks Opposition Board proceedings

In response to the growing number of self-represented parties before the TMOB, CIPO implemented proactive measures to improve access to information and procedural support. The TMOB developed 2 key resources to assist trademark owners in navigating expungement (section 45) proceedings: the Guide to preparing an affidavit or statutory declaration in section 45 proceedings, and a Sample affidavit for section 45 proceedings.

CIPO also partnered with legal clinics across Canada to support self-represented parties appearing before the TMOB. While these clinics do not provide access to legal representation, they offer valuable support including legal information, assistance with documentation, preparation for hearings and clarification of TMOB decisions. Current partners include:

- Business Venture Clinic (University of Calgary)
- Western Intellectual Property & Innovation Legal Clinic (Western University)
- Legal Clinic (Université de Montréal)
- initio Technology and Innovation Clinic (Dalhousie University)

CIPO continues to assess the success of this initiative and is exploring opportunities to expand the program by partnering with additional legal clinics.



**Providing leadership to  
improve the IP system in  
Canada and globally**



# Enhancing the global IP system through international collaboration

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The IP landscape is rapidly evolving, driven by a surge in IP filings, demographic and economic changes, and shifting geopolitics. These changes bring both opportunities and challenges, emphasizing the need for international collaboration to establish a robust and inclusive global IP system that empowers innovators. CIPO's 2024–2029 International Strategy sets a clear strategic vision to enhance the global IP landscape and advance Canada's interests. Central to this strategy is CIPO's commitment to serve as a catalyst for innovation, advance Canada's global economic position, foster cooperation with international partners and promote inclusive growth.

In July 2024, CIPO led Canada's delegation to the 65th WIPO General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. This annual gathering of member States serves as a forum to review WIPO's work, shape future policy directions and foster high-level discussions among IP offices.

Throughout the General Assembly, CIPO engaged in over 35 bilateral and multilateral meetings with international partners. The meetings focused on shared priorities such as support for innovators; equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility in the IP ecosystem; the SDGs; and strategic technical assistance for developing and least developed countries. These discussions resulted in the signing of 3 new memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and generated dozens of concrete action items, including event partnerships, bilateral meetings, knowledge-sharing initiatives, technical assistance commitments and the development of diplomatic instruments.

The General Assembly provided CIPO with a platform to participate in panel discussions alongside other IP offices. In one such discussion, hosted by the Global IP Alliance in partnership with the Innovation Council, CIPO's CEO joined senior officials from international IP offices to explore strategies for building effective frameworks for communication, engagement and collaboration with stakeholders—including IP owners, industry groups and non-governmental organizations. The panel also

highlighted best practices for improving access to IP systems, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities. CIPO also took part in the "Future of IP" event, where a panel of senior officials from IP offices across the world discussed how to transform IP offices into hubs of innovation and creativity to better prepare for a rapidly evolving future. The conversation examined WIPO's ongoing work on the future of IP and recent insights from the International Trademark Association (INTA)'s IP Office of the Future Think Tank, particularly regarding financial sustainability.

CIPO actively promotes international collaboration through bilateral and multilateral agreements and is currently a signatory to more than 20 MOUs with international organizations and IP offices. During the 2024 General Assembly, CIPO reinforced this commitment by signing an updated MOU with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. This new agreement, which replaces the previous one that expired in 2021, expands the scope of cooperation and strengthens Canada's commitment to offering technical assistance in IP.

In July 2024, CIPO further expanded its collaboration with the EPO through a new bilateral MOU focused on the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC). Designed to create a unified, internationally compatible classification system for technical documents—particularly patent publications—the CPC enhances synergies, reduces duplication and improves the quality of the patent granting process. This agreement builds on a previous MOU and workplan signed in 2018, deepening the partnership between CIPO and the EPO. In November 2024, a new workplan was signed to outline the specific steps for implementation.

CIPO also advanced its engagement with WIPO in the area of dispute resolution. WIPO offers private parties efficient and cost-effective alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options— including mediation, arbitration and expert determination—to help resolve IP and technology disputes. Recognizing the growing importance of ADR, CIPO signed a 5-year MOU with WIPO in July 2024 to promote ADR services for resolving standard essential patent (SEP) disputes. This agreement establishes a framework to raise awareness of ADR procedures among Canadian stakeholders and supports the development of SEP-related ADR policies and procedures in Canada.

In October 2024, CIPO proudly announced its participation in the newly formed French-speaking Alliance for Intellectual Property, launched by France's Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI) during the 19th Francophonie Summit. The Alliance aims to promote French as a language of innovation, enhance global French-speaking IP expertise and foster collaboration among French-speaking IP offices and key stakeholders in the IP ecosystem. To reaffirm its commitment to the French language and the Francophone community, CIPO attended the launch event in Paris. CIPO was honoured to join a roundtable discussion where we discussed ways to encourage economic players to leverage IP and promote entrepreneurial initiative and innovation in the French-speaking world.

Over the past year, CIPO expanded its global engagement by participating in the Global Mentoring Pilot Program, an initiative led by the USPTO. Running from January to August 2024, this program brought together IP professionals from 15 offices worldwide to strengthen connections and enhance IP systems. Eight CIPO employees took part as mentors or mentees, collaborating with colleagues from the European Union Intellectual Property Office, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. Through these mentorships, participants gained valuable insights into international IP practices, explored key industry topics, built strategic relationships and deepened their understanding of global IP organizations.

In January 2025, CIPO welcomed a delegation from INTA, providing a valuable opportunity to exchange insights and strengthen bilateral relations. The visit also marked the renewal of our 5-year MOU, reinforcing our shared commitment to fostering innovation and enhancing global collaboration on trademark-related matters.



Elisabeth Stewart Bradley (left), President of INTA, and Konstantinos Georgaras (right), CEO of CIPO, renewing a 5-year collaboration MOU, in January 2025.

To enhance the efficiency and quality of patent examinations, IP offices around the world have implemented the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program. This initiative enables patent applicants whose applications have been deemed allowable by one office to request accelerated examination of corresponding applications in other offices, leveraging the initial office's examination results. By 2024–2025, CIPO had established PPH partnerships with 27 IP offices through a global pilot program and 5 additional offices through bilateral agreements. In October 2024, CIPO renewed its bilateral PPH agreement with France's INPI for another 5 years. To promote the program, CIPO and INPI co-hosted a joint webinar in December 2024, where patent experts shared

insights and encouraged the use of the PPH. In February 2025, CIPO further advanced the initiative by co-hosting a plurilateral PPH meeting with IP offices from Chile, Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. Discussions focused on strengthening the program's framework, aligning implementation practices and addressing the evolving global IP landscape.

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) simplifies the process of obtaining patent protection in multiple countries by allowing applicants to file a single international application. In October 2024, CIPO participated in the 31st session of the PCT Meeting of International Authorities and the 14th informal meeting of the Quality Subgroup in Beijing, China. These meetings focused on strengthening the PCT system and optimizing the work of international authorities (IAs) to better serve applicants, offices and third parties. Notably, discussions were particularly productive regarding the simplification of the international authority appointment process—a key priority for CIPO.

Guided by the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG) works to strengthen IP protection across the Asia-Pacific region. In August 2024, CIPO participated in the 59th APEC-IPEG sessions in Lima, Peru, where discussions focused on key topics such as IP financing, the digital economy and interconnectivity and the role of IP in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. During the meetings, CIPO highlighted Canada's IP priorities and contributed to workshops on digital trademark enforcement and patent process efficiency. On the margins, CIPO took part in a workshop hosted by the USPTO as part of the APEC project titled "Enhancing Innovation with More Efficient Patent Systems: Tools, Resources, and Worksharing," co-sponsored by Canada and other APEC members. Additionally, CIPO held bilateral meetings with representatives from the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States, advancing Canada's interests in preparation for the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty in November 2024.

In October 2024, CIPO's CEO met with Greek officials in Athens, Greece, to support the ratification of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Organized by Global Affairs Canada, the meeting addressed Greece's concerns regarding the treatment of "Feta" under CETA and Canada's enforcement of geographical indications (GI).

It also provided an opportunity to clarify Canada's GI regime and explain how Greek businesses can seek GI protection in Canada. Ratifying CETA will offer significant benefits to Canadians, including access to a market of over 500 million consumers across 28 European Union countries, the elimination of most trade tariffs and substantial economic growth through increased bilateral trade. The agreement also creates diverse opportunities for various sectors, particularly SMEs, by providing clearer rules of origin, streamlined customs procedures and enhanced labour mobility. Additionally, CETA is expected to attract European investment to Canada, fostering innovation and economic development while offering Canadian consumers a broader range of goods and services at more competitive prices.

At the invitation of the USPTO, deputy heads of IP offices from G7 countries and the EPO convened for the virtual international dialogue on AI and IP in September 2024. The discussions explored the evolving intersection of AI and patent law, addressing key issues such as inventorship, patent subject matter eligibility and AI-generated prior art. Participants shared insights on how their respective offices are navigating these challenges, delving into topics such as patent eligibility, disclosure requirements, the "person of ordinary skill" standard and the treatment of AI-generated prior art. The dialogue provided a deeper understanding of these complex issues, offering a comparative perspective on the current state of patent law across jurisdictions. By fostering greater international alignment, the discussions aimed to inform policy development and enhance global IP frameworks in response to rapid advancements in AI technology.

In November 2024, CIPO hosted delegations from the EPO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) for a productive working-level visit, fostering discussions on shared priorities and facilitating the exchange of best practices. The visit culminated in the signing of a comprehensive workplan between CIPO and the EPO, further strengthening collaboration on the Cooperative Patent Classification. Coinciding with CIPO's 7th Annual IP Data & Research Conference, the visit also featured a fireside chat with Mr. Stephen Rowan, Vice-President for the Patent Granting Process at the EPO, who highlighted the role of IP offices as catalysts for innovation. Additionally, Mr. Atsushi Hiruta, IP Attaché from the JPO and Chief Director of the IP Division at the Japan External Trade Organization in New York, joined a panel discussion on IP-backed financing alongside experts from the United Kingdom IP Office and CIPO.

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## Advancing global IP governance: The 2024 adoption of key international IP treaties

In 2024–2025, 2 landmark international IP treaties were adopted, marking significant milestones in global IP governance. On May 24, 2024, the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge was officially adopted after 2 decades of discussions and meaningful contributions from Indigenous peoples and local communities. This groundbreaking treaty requires patent applicants to disclose the origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge used in their inventions, helping to prevent misappropriation and promote transparency. CIPO proudly represented Canada at the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in Geneva, Switzerland (May 13 to 24, 2024), where final negotiations were concluded. This achievement underscores the power of diplomacy, the importance of international collaboration and the recognition of Indigenous peoples and local communities as vital contributors to innovation and knowledge.

On November 22, 2024, WIPO member States adopted the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, which will simplify the process for designers to protect their industrial designs across multiple jurisdictions. This treaty represents a significant step forward in empowering designers and promoting international collaboration in design. Notably, it integrates protections for traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, ensuring a more inclusive approach to design rights while maintaining strong incentives for innovation. CIPO's CEO led the Canadian delegation at the WIPO Diplomatic Conference on Design Law in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where the Treaty was finalized and adopted. Canada played a pivotal role in the negotiations, earning recognition for its expertise, neutrality and ability to bridge diverse perspectives.

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From left to right, Mr. Daren Tang, Director General, WIPO; Mr. Konstantinos Georgaras, CEO, CIPO; Ms. Romina Raeisi, Multilateral Intellectual Property Officer, Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva; Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Swailem, CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property and chair of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty.

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# Building global IP capacity through technical assistance and training

In alignment with Canada's obligations under the World Trade Organization's TRIPS Agreement, CIPO commits to providing technical assistance to developing and least-developed countries. As part of this commitment, CIPO actively participates in WIPO's biannual Committee on Development and Intellectual Property to support global IP capacity-building efforts. Through its engagement, CIPO ensures that Canada's positions on IP issues are effectively represented, that it remains informed on key developments within WIPO and that it continues to advance Canada's IP priorities. During the 2024 sessions, CIPO delivered key interventions, including on the successful implementation of a Canada co-sponsored project to assist developing countries in drafting technical assistance proposals.

In collaboration with WIPO, CIPO proudly hosted the 26th Annual CIPO-WIPO Executive Program in October 2024—the first in-person edition since the COVID-19 pandemic. This intensive week-long program, followed by 20 weeks of virtual mentorship, was designed to enhance the skills and expertise of IP officials from developing and least-developed countries, strengthening their IP management capacity. This year's cohort included 9 senior delegates from the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization and the IP offices of Botswana, Cambodia, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Uganda. CIPO was also honoured to welcome Mr. Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director General of WIPO, for the signing of an MOU between the WIPO Academy and CIPO on IP training and skills development. This agreement marks a significant milestone, deepening CIPO's longstanding partnership with WIPO and reinforcing a shared commitment to delivering high-quality training initiatives for senior IP officials from developing and least-developed countries.

In June 2024, CIPO reaffirmed its commitment to advancing global IP expertise by partnering with the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office and the Federation of Fish Processing and Valorization Industries of Morocco to host a webinar on trademark protection in export markets. The webinar provided valuable insights from CIPO's trademark experts, helping Moroccan

businesses enhance their knowledge of IP and their protection strategies in international markets.

In October 2024, CIPO advanced its workplan with the Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle (OAPI) through a bilateral discussion on economic forecasting and financial sustainability. Expanding on this collaboration, CIPO and OAPI co-hosted a webinar on IP and social media in November 2024, providing valuable insights and best practices for protecting IP in the digital landscape. This event not only highlighted CIPO's dedication to technical assistance but also marked its first joint initiative under the newly established French-speaking Alliance for Intellectual Property, strengthening cooperation within the Francophone IP community.



Mr. Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director General of WIPO (left) and Mr. Konstantinos Georgaras, CEO of CIPO (right), signing an MOU on IP training and skills-building.

# Modernizing Canada's IP framework

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In recent years, Canada introduced significant legislative and regulatory reforms to establish a patent term adjustment (PTA) framework, fulfilling its obligations under the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement. Amendments to the *Patent Act*, which received royal assent in June 2023, provide a mechanism to compensate patent holders for unreasonable delays in the processing of their patent application. The PTA framework officially came into force on January 1, 2025, alongside amendments to the *Patent Rules*, which set out the procedures for calculating and administering additional patent term adjustments. By aligning Canada's patent system with those of major jurisdictions such as the United States and Japan, this initiative promotes fair and predictable patent term compensation, strengthens Canada's global competitiveness and provides greater certainty for patentees operating in international markets.

Over the past year, CIPO has worked diligently to amend the *Trademarks Regulations* and develop new practice notices and training materials to support the legislative changes to the *Trademarks Act* introduced in the *Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No.2*. These changes empowered the Registrar of Trademarks to award costs, issue confidentiality orders and give public notice when the prohibition to adopt or use a certain official mark no longer applies. The *Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No.2* also provided specific regulation-making authority to allow the Registrar to case-manage proceedings before the TMOB and establish a fee in relation to the request to give public notice that the prohibition with respect to a particular official mark no longer applies. These legislative changes and related amendments to the *Trademarks Regulations* which came into force on April 1, 2025, address key gaps in the trademark regime, streamline trademark

dispute resolution and discourage practices that lead to unnecessary delays or costs. To support stakeholders, CIPO hosted a webinar providing an overview of the legislative and regulatory changes, as well as the new practice notices and procedures developed by TMOB to implement the changes.

Ongoing engagement with clients and stakeholders is crucial to maintaining an effective and responsive IP system. This collaboration plays a vital role in identifying emerging challenges, developing innovative solutions and shaping policies that strengthen Canada's IP framework. By fostering open and transparent dialogue within the broader IP community, CIPO ensures its services remain relevant, adaptable and aligned with the evolving needs of stakeholders.

In 2024–2025, CIPO strengthened its collaboration with clients and stakeholders through public consultations, meetings, events and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Regular discussions with the patent, trademark and industrial design practice committees provided a platform for reviewing office practices, policies and regulations, while exploring opportunities for service enhancements. CIPO also engaged with key IP professional organizations, including the Canadian Association of the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada and the IP Section of the Canadian Bar Association, to share updates and gather valuable feedback from IP professionals. Additionally, CIPO hosted 4 roundtable discussions with Canadian SMEs to better understand their IP needs, challenges and overall service experience, and plans to hold 2 additional roundtable discussions in 2025–2026. The insights gathered from these engagements will help refine CIPO's services and inform the development of tailored IP awareness and education tools, empowering SMEs to better leverage their IP and enhance their competitiveness in the marketplace.

# Empowering innovation through IP data and research

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IP data and research play a critical role in driving innovation, providing businesses, policymakers and industry leaders with the insights needed to track market trends, identify new opportunities and make informed strategic decisions. By delivering accessible and actionable data on IP trends, CIPO fosters follow-on innovation and equips stakeholders with the knowledge to navigate and remain competitive in an evolving IP landscape.

In alignment with ISED's 2023–2026 Data Strategy, CIPO is reinforcing its commitment to becoming a data-driven organization. To support this objective, we have developed a comprehensive data framework that defines our vision, mission, principles and strategic objectives—promoting open access to high-value IP data and research while upholding rigorous privacy and security standards. Our data initiatives are guided by CIPO's IP Data & Research Agenda, a tool that serves as a strategic roadmap and operational guide. The 2024–2025 edition focuses on addressing key IP and innovation policy questions, enhancing data accessibility and increasing transparency for both internal and external stakeholders.

CIPO's IP Canada Report provides a comprehensive overview of IP activity in Canada and by Canadians abroad, offering valuable insights into the trends shaping the IP landscape. This annual publication presents key data on patents, trademarks, industrial designs and plant breeders' rights, serving as an essential resource for researchers, businesses and policymakers. Drawing on data from CIPO, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and WIPO, the 2024 edition of the report highlights recent developments in IP and their broader implications for innovation and economic growth, and features 2 special topics in emerging areas of IP research. The first explores IP-backed financing in Canada, offering a preview of an upcoming WIPO study on the growing use of patents and trademarks as collateral in financial transactions. This research underscores

the increasing recognition of IP as a valuable asset for both businesses and financial institutions. The second special feature examines the rise of patenting activity in quantum technologies, revealing a strong foundation for future innovations. While Canada's share of quantum-related patents aligns with its economic size, the country's contributions stand out globally, reinforcing its status in this cutting-edge field.



Participants at CIPO's 7th Annual IP Data & Research Conference in November 2024.

On November 4 and 5, 2024, CIPO, in collaboration with the Centre for International Governance Innovation, co-hosted the 7th Annual IP Data & Research Conference, bringing together 34 distinguished speakers and approximately 350 participants from over 15 countries. Over the years, this event has grown into a premier forum for advancing IP research from a Canadian perspective, continually expanding its scope, international reach and engagement. This year's conference focused on 5 key themes: IP innovation and productivity; the mobility of inventors and firms; IP-driven business strategies and performance at the firm level; the patentability of emerging technologies; and IP-backed financing. Complementing the conference, CIPO also hosted its 4th annual Data Day, providing a dedicated platform for researchers to present their latest findings, data insights and analytical techniques. These events featured valuable research and data from CIPO, ISED and international

IP offices—including those of Europe, France, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States—fostering meaningful discussions and knowledge sharing across the global IP community.

NGP has transformed both back-end and client-facing patent systems. This included a comprehensive modernization of the Canadian Patents Database, which contains data on more than 2.5 million patent documents dating back to 1869, and now pulls data directly from CIPO's new internal IP rights management system. Clients now benefit from expanded document availability, standardized patent status information aligned with WIPO Standard 27 and enhanced search capabilities for public access files. By streamlining access to critical patent data, these advancements foster a more efficient and transparent IP ecosystem that drives innovation forward.

# Be a high-performing organization that is built for the future

CIPO is committed to driving Canada's innovation and economic growth through education, leadership and the timely delivery of high-quality IP products and services. Our success is based on strong governance, sound financial stewardship and a highly skilled and engaged workforce. We cultivate an inclusive and dynamic workplace where employee well-being is a priority and diversity is not only embraced but celebrated. With resilience and adaptability, CIPO remains poised to deliver exceptional services and support innovation—today and into the future.



## Establish a modern and healthy workplace

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In 2024–2025, CIPO advanced its workplace modernization efforts while optimizing its office footprint in alignment with government priorities. As part of this initiative, CIPO renovated multiple floors of its office tower, acquired new fully modernized office spaces and released unused or underutilized areas. The newly designed spaces feature bright, open and interactive environments that foster collaboration and enhance the employee experience. Additionally, the implementation of an improved online office reservation system has streamlined workplace operations, supporting greater flexibility and efficiency. These initiatives align with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat’s directive for increased onsite presence, requiring employees to work in office at least 3 days a week, and executives, 4 days a week. By modernizing workspaces and enhancing operational efficiency, we foster a workplace that is dynamic and adaptive to the evolving needs of our workforce.

Beyond optimizing the physical workspace, CIPO actively cultivates a supportive workplace culture, where mental health and well-being are prioritized, and psychological safety is embedded in daily practices. In 2024, CIPO’s Mental Health and Wellness Committee—comprised of employees from various levels—launched a comprehensive mental health action plan. Aligned with ISED’s new Mental Health Strategy, this plan provides managers and employees with the tools, knowledge and resources to engage in open discussions about mental health and offer meaningful support. Throughout the year, CIPO organized and promoted a variety of initiatives, activities and events focused on mental health awareness. These efforts not only help employees enhance their well-being but also empower them to seek help, share experiences and support one another—fostering a more compassionate, inclusive and resilient organization.

Accessibility is fundamental to creating an inclusive, equitable and productive workplace where all employees can thrive. At CIPO, the Accessibility Ambassadors Network plays a key role in advancing this mission. Comprising approximately 20 employees, or “accessibility ambassadors,” the network advocates for greater accessibility, provides access to valuable resources and offers insights on removing workplace barriers and improving practices. In 2024–2025, accessibility ambassadors played a pivotal role in promoting best practices for more accessible meetings and developing work tools and templates that enhance accessibility for everyone. They also championed mandatory accessibility training, ensuring that all employees are equipped with the knowledge and skills to ensure an inclusive work environment.

Through communications and activities aligned with key events—including Pride Week, Official Languages Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Black History Month and International Women’s Day—CIPO actively promoted equity, diversity and inclusion. This fosters a workplace where every employee feels respected, valued and empowered to reach their full potential. In collaboration with ISED’s Office of the Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, CIPO facilitated Safe Space discussions for executives on race, racism and allyship, providing a supportive platform for open dialogue and learning. In February 2025, this initiative was expanded to include employees interested in becoming facilitators. These trained facilitators will play a key role in leading future discussions, equipping colleagues with the confidence and skills to engage in meaningful conversations across the organization.

## Recruiting and developing a diverse and skilled workforce

Innovation thrives in an environment that embraces change, values diverse perspectives and encourages continuous learning. To stay at the forefront of a rapidly evolving IP landscape, CIPO must foster the skills and competencies necessary to excel and adapt.

In November 2024, CIPO introduced its Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) plan, a strategic initiative designed to embed EDIA principles into the organization's culture and operations. The plan focuses on closing representation gaps by removing barriers to employment equity and implementing targeted actions to support underrepresented groups. Aligned with ISED's 2023–2025 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, it also responds to the Clerk of the Privy Council's Call to Action on Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion in the Federal Public Service, reinforcing CIPO's commitment to lasting and meaningful change. By integrating EDIA principles into recruitment, development and succession planning, CIPO cultivates a workplace built on respect and belonging. This inclusive approach strengthens our ability to serve clients effectively, ensures our workforce reflects the diverse communities we support and enhances our agility in navigating the evolving IP landscape.

CIPO is a proud partner of LiveWorkPlay, an organization dedicated to promoting inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism and dual diagnoses, empowering them to live, work and play as valued members of society. In 2024–2025, CIPO provided employment opportunities to 7 individuals hired through LiveWorkPlay, 3 of whom have transitioned into indeterminate positions. CIPO also remained involved in Carleton University's Accessible Career Transitions to Employ pilot program, which helps students and recent

graduates with disabilities find paid experiential learning opportunities aligned with their academic and career aspirations. Through this initiative, CIPO welcomed 9 students in 2024–2025, providing them with valuable work experience while reinforcing our commitment to fostering a diverse, inclusive and barrier-free workplace.

CIPO also offered enriching work experiences to 72 students through the Federal Student Work Experience Program and the Post-Secondary Co-op/Internship Program. These programs provide students with meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities while serving as a vital talent pipeline for the organization. By equipping students with valuable skills and exposure to IP administration, we are developing the next generation of CIPO employees. Our investment in student recruitment is a key component of succession planning, ensuring a continuous flow of skilled candidates who will contribute to CIPO's workforce and long-term success.

ISED's Mentorship Plus Program provides support, visibility and development opportunities for employees from employment equity groups at the executive and management levels, aiming to close representation gaps in senior leadership. This one-year program reinforces ISED's commitment to eliminating barriers and advancing career growth for employment equity and equity-seeking groups, in alignment with the Clerk's Call to Action on Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion in the Federal Public Service. In 2024–2025, each of CIPO's 19 executives mentored at least one employee from an employment equity group, a commitment included in their performance agreement to ensure accountability. By removing systemic barriers and actively supporting the career development of underrepresented groups, this initiative drives lasting progress toward a workforce that is inclusive, accessible and truly reflective of Canadian diversity.

Reinforcing its commitment to excellence in trademark examination, CIPO launched a Continuous Professional Development Program for trademark examiners. A comprehensive learning needs assessment identified knowledge gaps, leading to the development of 5 new workshops on key examination topics such as confusion assessments, objections related to place of origin and evaluating complex goods and services. Additionally, existing workshops on acquired distinctiveness and maintaining actions were significantly enhanced. Moving forward, CIPO will continue to develop targeted learning opportunities, including training on industrial design

examination and management, ensuring examiners are equipped to deliver high-quality, predictable and harmonized decisions.

To support the transition to NGP, CIPO delivered comprehensive training to key personnel, including examiners, classifiers, operational employees, Client Service Centre information officers and staff from the Incoming Correspondence Unit. Hands-on training sessions and live system demonstrations provided practical experience, while video tutorials, step-by-step work instructions and reference materials ensured ongoing support. As NGP evolves, CIPO will continue to offer regular training and update reference materials, ensuring employees remain informed and equipped to navigate the new system effectively.

CIPO's Industry Training Visit program enhances patent examiners' expertise by providing direct engagement with inventors, scientists, engineers and industry experts from leading Canadian companies. These visits offer firsthand exposure to emerging technologies, industry practices and real-world applications of innovation. In 2024–2025, examiners from CIPO's Mechanical Division specializing in printing technologies visited the Canadian Bank Note Company. During this immersive experience, they toured the facility, engaged with engineering staff on cutting-edge innovations, and gained deeper insights into technological advancements and industry trends. The knowledge gained from these visits is then shared across the examination corps, strengthening examiner expertise, improving client relations and fostering a more effective and informed patent system.

As the first point of contact for many clients, CIPO's CSC information officers play a vital role in guiding users through CIPO services and the broader world of IP. To strengthen their expertise and ensure they remain up-to-date with the latest developments, CIPO enhanced its training program in 2024–2025, equipping officers with the knowledge and tools needed to provide accurate and efficient support. A key component of this modernization was the creation of a centralized, dynamic learning environment on SharePoint, featuring instructional videos from the IP Awareness and Education and NGP teams, along with tutorials on essential work tools and databases. To reinforce learning, online quizzes were introduced to assess comprehension and retention. By making training more dynamic, engaging and accessible, CIPO is enhancing the expertise of its information officers, improving client support and elevating overall service quality.

CIPO is committed to delivering services to Canadians in their preferred official language while fostering a workplace culture that values and actively promotes bilingualism. To support this commitment, CIPO offers part-time second-language training for employees looking to enhance their language skills for professional development or personal growth. Over the past year, 120 employees participated in the Official Languages Development Program. In addition, CIPO's Official Languages Committee (OLC) spearheaded initiatives to strengthen the use of both official languages in the workplace. This year, the OLC consulted employees to better understand their second-language learning needs and preferences. In response, the Committee launched Speak Speed, a pilot project featuring a virtual speed networking format, and introduced the Second Language Club, a monthly "learn-over-lunch" initiative that provides a fun, informal setting for employees to practice their second language.

Effective succession planning is critical to maintaining a high-performing, agile organization by ensuring leadership continuity, preserving institutional knowledge and proactively addressing workforce needs. In 2024–2025, CIPO introduced the Succession Planning and Management Framework and related guide to support managers in strategically planning for critical positions. The new framework and guide provide senior management and hiring managers with a clear action plan, along with tools and resources to support effective succession planning. By strengthening recruitment efforts, fostering employee development and minimizing knowledge loss during transitions, this proactive approach enhances organizational adaptability, competitiveness and long-term success.



# Pursuing management excellence and sound stewardship

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As a special operating agency of ISED, CIPO is fully funded through revenues generated from client fees. To ensure long-term financial sustainability, CIPO prioritizes robust financial planning, sound governance and responsible stewardship. Each year, CIPO undergoes an external audit to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Public Accounts of Canada. In June 2024, CIPO received its 29th consecutive unqualified audit opinion for the 2023–2024 fiscal year, reaffirming the integrity of its financial results. This achievement reflects CIPO's steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability and excellence in financial management.

To strengthen financial sustainability, CIPO has enhanced its long-term forecasting model, adopting a proactive and strategic approach to financial management. As part of its financial reporting cycle, CIPO regularly updates its 10-year forecast, informing decision-making and efficient resource allocation. This forward-looking approach supports key initiatives, such as fee reviews, while providing leadership with insights for sound financial stewardship. By leveraging accurate, data-driven projections, CIPO ensures transparency, sustainability and the effective management of resources—benefiting both its operations and the clients it serves.

In January 2024, CIPO implemented a 25% fee increase for most IP services—the first significant adjustment in over 2 decades. This change was designed to account for inflation and other economic factors while ensuring CIPO's long-term financial sustainability. As a result, revenues for the 2024–2025 fiscal year have increased, reinforcing the sustainability of CIPO's revolving fund. Projected surpluses in the medium term will provide the financial flexibility needed for strategic investments in our IT infrastructure, service quality and operational efficiency.

The *Service Fees Act* (SFA) requires government organizations to adjust user fees annually to reflect inflation, with certain low-value fees exempt under the *Low-materiality Fees Regulations* (LMFR). Schedule 2

of the LMFR provides additional exemptions; however, it previously contained outdated references to certain patent maintenance fees while other maintenance fees were inadvertently omitted, leading to uncertainty in the application of the Act. To address these issues, Schedule 2 was amended in June 2024, ensuring that all patent maintenance fees are now subject to annual adjustments. This update enhances regulatory clarity and consistency, enabling patent system users to better anticipate and plan for future fee changes.

In addition to fee adjustment requirements, the SFA also mandates that government organizations remit a portion of fees to clients when service standards are not met. In the context of these obligations, and in accordance with ISED's Service Fees Remission Policy, CIPO temporarily exempted certain patent-related fees from remissions for services requested between June 27, 2024, and March 31, 2025. Although comprehensive risk assessments and mitigation strategies were in place, the post-launch phase of NGP required more extensive manual workarounds and stabilization efforts than initially anticipated. These unexpected challenges resulted in a substantial initial backlog. In managing this situation, CIPO actively engaged stakeholders, who expressed support for the temporary remission exemption and CIPO's approach to recovery.

As part of CIPO's ITM initiative, significant enhancements were made to the Integrated Financial and Material System (IFMS) to optimize financial management for patent administration. This modernization addresses audit recommendations by making it easier to match and track financial information across different systems, and establishes IFMS as the single source of truth for transactions. The upgraded system reduces the risks associated with manual data entry, strengthens compliance with legislative requirements and supports fee-level financial reporting in line with Treasury Board guidelines. It also integrates seamlessly with NGP, using reusable and business-aligned IT services that can be leveraged in future ITM projects. These improvements enhance governance and enable more precise financial reporting, starting with patents and extending to all lines of business in the future.

## Looking ahead

In 2025 and beyond, CIPO remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing the priorities outlined in our 2023–2028 Business Strategy. Building on recent achievements, we will continue to enhance service timeliness and quality, modernize our operations, refine education and awareness initiatives, and strengthen Canada’s leadership in the global IP ecosystem. In an increasingly complex and evolving IP landscape, strong collaboration with domestic and international partners will be critical to maintaining a resilient IP framework—one that catalyzes Canadian innovation and drives economic growth.





A central focus will be to continue reducing application backlogs and improving turnaround times, ensuring that businesses and innovators receive timely, dependable IP protection. With the successful launch of NGP, an increased trademark examination capacity and the adoption of new technologies and streamlined processes, CIPO is well positioned to significantly accelerate processing times across all areas of IP administration.

Modernization remains at the heart of our strategy, driving continued investments in digital transformation. Building on the momentum and lessons learned from NGP, we will continue refining our systems, tools and services to boost operational efficiency and elevate the client experience. We will lay the groundwork for Next Generation Trademarks, an initiative that will modernize our entire trademark IT system.

Delivering responsive, client-centered services will continue to be a top priority. By actively engaging with innovators, entrepreneurs and businesses, and incorporating their feedback, we will enhance service accessibility and provide tailored support that meets the evolving needs of our clients. Strengthening our partnerships with key stakeholders will amplify the reach and impact of our awareness and education efforts, helping to foster a stronger culture of IP literacy and strategic use. We will also maintain our focus on supporting traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous and Black entrepreneurs.

As economic and technological landscapes continue to shift, CIPO will deepen its collaboration with national and global partners to align with emerging best practices and reinforce Canada's influence in the international IP community. Through active participation in global forums, knowledge exchange and advocacy for Canadian interests, we will continue to contribute to a more harmonized and effective international IP system—one that empowers Canadian innovators and strengthens our country's global competitiveness.

Finally, a skilled, healthy and inclusive workforce remains essential to achieving our strategic goals. We will continue to embed EDIA into every aspect of our people management strategy—from recruitment to development and workplace culture—ensuring CIPO remains an employer of choice that attracts, supports and empowers a high-performing, innovative and engaged team.