



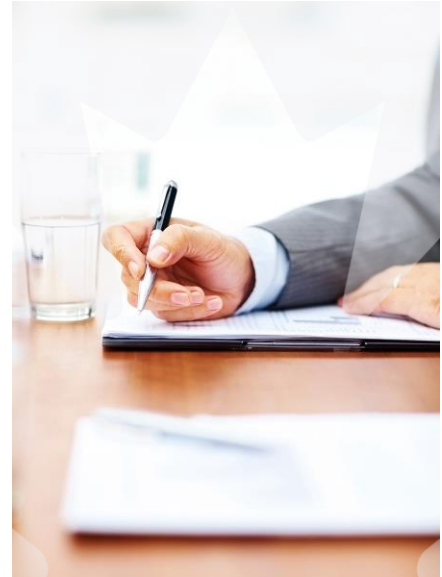
1



2

## Presentation Overview

- Impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic** and **Patent Branch's (PB) response**
- **Operations** – what's new from this past year and updates on our turnaround times and filings
- **Policy and International Affairs** – Updates from this past year
- **Looking ahead** on what's coming for PB



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3

## Impact of the Pandemic and PB's Response

### Engagement and communications with clients (domestic and international)

- Collaboration with stakeholders remained at the forefront
  - Offered various webinars and updated our web content and Frequently Asked Questions
- Continuous communication with IPIC, and international IP offices to ensure consistency

### Rapid adaptation to maintain our services

- Ensured business continuity and a well functioning workforce with 99% of employees working remotely (transition of approx. 600 employees to full-time remote work)
- Quick change of pace - equipped employees with proper IT tools and modified our processes and technologies
- Patent Law Treaty - Addressed the inventory and learned many new processes
  - e.g. recording transfers and changes of names

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4

# Impact of the Pandemic and PB's Response (Cont'd)

## Employee engagement

- Employee commitment to maintain service delivery and operations
- Completed the training of two new cohorts of patent examiners remotely
- Hiring of 8 new patent examiners in Fall 2020 (Electrical and Mechanical Divisions)
- Ensured that the health and safety of our employees remained top priority

## Strategic response to COVID

- Applying the learnings of the first wave to the second wave

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5

## Operations - Updates

- Changed various other processes, services and technological supports
  - e.g. electronic signatures
- Changed various processes to allow more remote work at **Incoming Correspondence Unit (ICU)**
- **Thin grant** - a new patent grant certificate and process developed to significantly reduce paper printing and processing
  - Currently working on having a single button download



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6

## Filings compared to last year

- YTD Filings in 2020-21 is 4% below last years Filings

	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Previous YTD	Year over year Variance %
Applications	2,436	15,421	16,017	-4%

## Current Turnaround times

- Current (August 2020) Turnaround Times (TATs) compared to last year

TATs for	AUGUST	Last year
RE to 1st Action for 90% of Applications are met in	13.1 months	13.7 months
RE to Grant with 1 report for 90% of Applications are met in	29.1 months	29.0 months
Average RE to 1st Action (Granted REs)	9.5 months	10.6 months
Average RE to Grant with 1 report	22 months	23.4 months

## Policy and International Affairs - Update

- Extensions under subsection 78(1) of the Patent Act in relation to **designated days**
  - Challenge with end date not known and anticipated sudden increase in volume
  - Hosted Information sessions – explaining the various impacts of designated days
- Implemented a process for **Accelerated Examination for Patent Applications related to COVID-19 Relief**
- **MOPOP revisions** - end of September 2020
  - Updates to office practices following PLT implementation
  - Updates to further clarify administrative procedures

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9

## Current Affairs

- **ITM**
  - Hired consultants – the planning work is well underway
  - Well positioned to proceed with an agile project development
  - Initiated consultations – Your feedback was appreciated; your input has been captured
  - Identified key projects for the upcoming months (e-granting and filing applications)
- **WIPO General Assemblies**
  - Change of Leadership
  - Virtual Meeting – Hybrid Participation
- **Choueifaty v. Attorney General of Canada**

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10

## What's next for PB

- E-granting
- WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS)
- Service Fees Act
- Cooperative Patent Classification
- Examination Efficiency - consultation and next steps

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11

## Final Remarks

### Any questions?



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12

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