

# Annual Report 2024



Intellectual Property  
Institute of Canada

The voice of intellectual  
property professionals

# IPIIC at a glance

9  
BOARD  
MEMBERS

28  
COMMITTEES

1950+  
MEMBERS

390+  
VOLUNTEERS

10  
STAFF

## Our Team



ADAM KINGSLEY  
Chief Executive Officer



ANNE-JOSÉE DELCORDE  
Director of Education



LORETO LAMB  
Director of Partnerships



JESSE AUGUSTE  
Director of Communications  
and Member Services



KIM ARIAL  
Manager of Education & Events



ASHA LABRECQUE  
Manager of Member Services



JACILYN STETTNER  
Education Officer



ROBYN O'NEILL  
Design Officer



SAMANTHA BENNETT  
Manager of IP Assist



CHARU BHARGAVA  
Accountant

# IPIC President & Chair of the Board

During IPIC’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Fall 2023, **Paula Clancy** was elected IPIC President and Chair of the Board for the 2023–2024 term. President Clancy previously served on the IPIC Board in various capacities and has been actively involved in IPIC’s advocacy, education, and EDI programming for many years.

Over the past year, IPIC made critical strides in enhancing members’ professional development, expanding our outreach, and promoting a unified IP community across Canada. We look forward to continued success under President Nathaniel Lipkus’ leadership in 2025.



# Board of Directors

In addition to the new President, IPIC members also voted in a new slate of Board Directors for the 2023–2024 term. The Board maintains its diversity of roles—IP lawyers, patent agents, trademark agents, litigators, and corporate practitioners—ensuring balanced representation of the profession.

## 2023-2024 IPIC Board of Directors





**PRESIDENT AND  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**  
**Paula Clancy**



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Nathaniel Lipkus**



**SECRETARY**  
**Jason Hynes**



**TREASURER**  
**Elizabeth Dipchand**



**Tim Lowman**  
(IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)



**Jennifer Dove**



**Jordana Sanft**



**Neil Padgett**



**Catherine Lovrics**

**DIRECTORS**

IPIC extends its sincere gratitude to outgoing Board members for their years of invaluable service and welcomes the newly elected individuals who have joined the Board. We look forward to leveraging their expertise to further our mission in the coming year.

**OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**  
**MEMBRES SORTANTS DU  
CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION**

Thank you for your  
great contribution  
to IPIC!

Merci pour votre  
grande contribution  
à l'IPIC!



**Tim Lowman**  
*Aird & Berlis LLP*



**Jennifer Dove**  
*Coastal Trademark Services*



**Jordana Sanft**  
*Lenczner Slaght*



# Strategic Plan

2024 marked the beginning of IPIC's next phase in strategic planning. IPIC's strategic plan for 2024-2026 contains three focus areas:



Each interconnected and mutually supporting focus area contains objectives and specific measurable tactics that will allow IPIC to make advancements in achieving our desired outcomes. Below are key highlights:

## Focus Area 1: The Voice of IP

Advocacy is at the heart of IPIC's work—supporting a robust Canadian IP framework and championing our members' perspectives to policymakers, industry leaders, and the broader public.

### Agent-Client Privilege

In 2024, IPIC leadership worked tirelessly to make the fixing of agent-client privilege a priority for the Canadian government.

- We received wide support from government officials in a challenging political environment.
- IPIC's 2024 President Paula Clancy secured support of sister organizations around the world to assist in IPIC's lobbying efforts.
- **MP Yasir Naqvi** agreed to champion the issue of agent-client privilege in Parliament, and the Office of **Minister Champagne** signaled willingness to collaborate with IPIC to avoid a two-tier privilege system.
- In the summer of 2024, IPIC worked closely with the office of Minister Champagne on a recommendation to the Minister of Finance for expanding the scope of privilege for clients of patent and trademark agents.



A request was subsequently made for inclusion of the recommendation in the federal government's Fall Economic Statement 2024. The political landscape shifted at the final hour, but IPIC continues to work in 2025 and to push for legislative change that ensures a robust privilege protecting patent and trademark agent communications with their clients.

## Other Advocacy Efforts

*Trademark Backlog:* IPIC addressed the ongoing challenges and delays on the trademark application process, advocating to CIPO for better transparency, clearer timelines and resource allocation to improve processing times. As of January 2025, CIPO is processing **3.2 months of backlog** per calendar month for applications not using the pre-approved list.

*MyCIPO Patent Launch Issues:* IPIC worked closely with the patent office to identify user interface and procedural hurdles that continue to impact the MyCIPO Patent e-service launch.

*Federal Court Funding:* IPIC urged action on funding challenges faced by the Federal Court, aiming to preserve timely, effective resolution of IP litigation.

*Patent Box:* IPIC's Patent Box recommendations were submitted to Finance Canada consultation on creating a patent box regime. Progress in this area led to the government committing to the patent box initiative in their Fall Economic Statement.

## IP Assist

IPIC continues to advocate in all forums to ensure our members are well-positioned to take advantage of intellectual property strategy initiatives across the country. In 2024, IPIC administered the IP Assist funding program, supporting the development of IP strategies, and communicate with CIPO and federal and provincial IP organizations to seize opportunities for IP strategy work.

Through this partnership with NRC IRAP, IPIC pairs its members with SMEs seeking advice and support. Participating IPIC members volunteer to be on a list of experts, choosing one or two areas of specialization, and earn fees for providing two levels of service:

- L1, a three-hour presentation on IP issues relevant to the SME's sector (for \$1,000), and
- L2, a tailored IP strategy developed by an agent (for \$18,000).

To date, IP Assist has generated  more than **700 engagements** & **\$2 million in revenue** for IPIC members

## Careers in IP Campaign

In 2024, IPIC's Careers in IP campaign brought the world of IP to students, job seekers, and educators nationwide. By campaigning in career fairs, hosting presentations and driving traffic to careersinip.ca, IPIC thousands of people to the opportunities IP has to offer.

**+4,000**  
UNIQUE SITE  
VISITORS

Since launch:

**+150,000**  
impressions

## Speaking Opportunities

In 2024, IPIC provided opportunities for members to volunteer as speakers and experts at a range of key events, including Collision 2024 in Toronto, members showcased the significance of IP protection and strategy across various industries. The Indigenous Law Students' Association (ILSA) at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law, where members shared their expertise with future legal professionals.



IPIC members supported the RBC Career Launch event, offering insights into IP career opportunities. IPIC members also participated in CIPO's Black History Month event, and contributed to the Small Business Expo at ISED Innovation, speaking on the topic of IP for small businesses. IPIC facilitated the participation of women IP professionals to share their expertise at the IP Bootcamp for Women Entrepreneurs, to help women navigate the complexities of IP.

## International Engagement

This past year, IPIC continued to champion the interests of Canadian IP professionals while broadening its global impact. We collaborated with international organizations, hosted and attended major events, and strengthened our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion across the IP landscape.

- IPIC representatives met with the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA), the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) in London, England and other IP professional associations in both Edinburgh, Scotland and Dublin, Ireland.
- IPIC President Clancy attended the IPTA Annual Meeting in Canberra, Australia.
- IPIC CEO and Director of Partnership (formerly Director of EDI) attended the AIPLA DEI Colloquium in Puerto Rico.
- IPIC President Clancy joined the first Presidents' Meeting in London, England with IP leaders from major jurisdictions around the world.
- IPIC President Lipkus and CEO Kingsley, attended the AIPLA annual meeting in Washington, DC.
- IPIC Past President Clancy represented Canada at the Global Network of professional IP associations in Hangzhou, China.



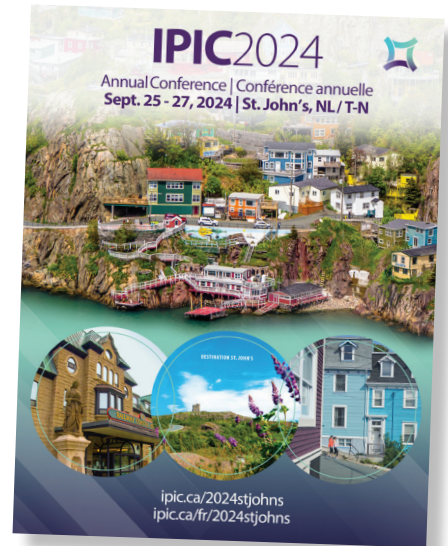
Through these efforts, IPIC continues to shape the policy conversation around intellectual property in Canada, ensuring that our members' expertise is recognized, and that the IP profession remains central to Canada's innovation agenda.

# Focus Area 2: Professional Development and Thought Leadership

Supporting and elevating IP professionals throughout their careers is a core element of IPIC's mission. Our educational offerings, webinars, and collaborative events serve to strengthen our members' skills and leadership capabilities.

## IPIC2024 in St. John's

**Over 200 delegates and 18 sponsors** gathered in St. John's—our second-highest turnout on record. The conference featured advanced topics, including AI patentability, trademark best practices, ethics, and emerging IP trends.



# IPIC2024

**+200** Delegates  **18** Sponsors 

## IP Case Law Review Series

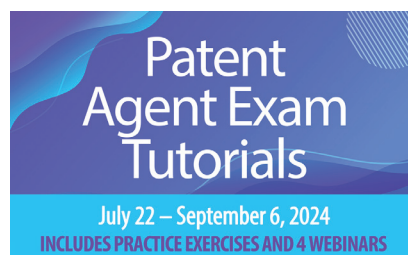
The 15-webinar Trademark and Patent Case Law Review series was renewed and delivered by **30 speakers**, in addition to the annual Year-in-Review in Copyright, Trademarks and Patents discussing recent jurisprudence.

## CPD Webinars

IPIC offered a host of webinars covering substantive law, professional regulation and liability, ethics, professionalism, practice management, EDI, Indigenous IP Issues and wellbeing.

## New Educational Offerings

New interactive features for the Patent and Trademark Agent Exam prep courses modeled after the new CPATA examinations were offered, providing practical experience and rigorous exam preparation for aspiring agents.





## IP Strategy Series: Being an Effective IP Strategist

Our educational modules for IP strategy, designed to elevate the IP strategy skills of IP professionals, are a testament to our commitment to elevating IP professionals within the Canadian IP ecosystem.

### IPIC-McGill Initiatives

IPIC partnered again with McGill University to deliver the **30<sup>th</sup> edition** of the IP Summer Courses in Copyright, Trademarks and Patents in Montreal and launched the virtual IP Strategy for Business Course.

IPIC-McGILL UNDERSTANDING TRADEMARKS COURSE  
FEATURING:  
"MADRID DAY"

CHRISTOPHER DEJARDIN  
CASSAN MACLEAN  
IP AGENCY

JENNIFER MCKENZIE  
CASSELS BROCK &  
BLACKWELL LLP

OLIVIER PIERRE  
WORLD INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024 | 9 am – 4 pm (ET) | McGill University, Montreal

Intellectual Property Institute of Canada  
Institut de la propriété intellectuelle du Canada

McGill School of Continuing Studies

Intellectual Property Strategy for Business

April 23 – June 18, 2024  
Every Tuesday (for 9 weeks)  
4 - 6 pm (ET) | Virtual

McGill School of Continuing Studies

IPIC

By providing high-caliber educational programming and thought leadership, IPIC ensures its members remain at the forefront of best practices and developments in the global IP landscape.

## Focus Area 3: Promoting a World Class IP Community

Building an inclusive, healthy, engaged, and well-supported professional community stands at the core of IPIC's efforts. In 2024, we deepened our commitment to Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI), offered wellness resources to members and introduced new networking opportunities to foster greater collaboration among members.

### Leveraging New Networking Opportunities

In 2024, IPIC leveraged virtual platforms like Remo for book clubs and our Emerging Leaders Committee "Leaders of Tomorrow" session, obtaining over 50 participants involved in the pilot project.

Leaders of Today  
Meeting Leaders  
of Tomorrow

IPIC

Join us for this unique virtual opportunity hosted by the Emerging Leaders Committee!  
Meet IPIC leaders for candid and meaningful discussions on their careers,  
current trends, and the future of IP leadership.

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 | 12:00 pm (ET)

## Indspire Partnership

IPIIC's partnership with Indspire continued to make meaningful impact in 2024, with a focus on enhancing accessibility for Indigenous students in the field of intellectual property (IP). Through the Gordon Henderson Fund, IPIIC provided a sum of **\$24,000** in bursaries to three upper-year university students pursuing STEM studies. In mid-year, these bursaries were matched by a federal government program, enabling three additional students to receive funding for the completion of their academic year. IPIIC showcased the recipients' achievements on *UnscriPted*, further emphasizing the importance of creating accessible pathways into the IP profession for Indigenous students. We look forward to continuing its collaboration with Indspire in 2025, supporting Indigenous academic success and expanding opportunities in the IP field.



Reanna George



Brandon Wozniak

## Mental Health & Wellness

Launched a dedicated **Wellness & Mental Health Resource** page to support members, **listing 7 active mental health websites and 7 distress lines**. IPIIC will continue partnering with mental health organizations for resource sharing and support.



## Administrator Search Tool

Introduced a **Certified Administrator Search Tool**, increasing transparency and helping members connect with specialized IP administrative professionals. Over **120** Certified Patent and Certified Trademark Administrators can now publicly validate their credentials using this tool.

## AMS Software Renewal

IPIIC completed an extensive competition for an upgraded Association Management Software (AMS). IPIIC has tentatively selected **Ignite's City Builder Software** to improve member registration and data management. Work is underway and the new portal is set to launch Fall 2025.

Through these thoughtful practices, robust networking platforms, and the introduction of new digital tools, IPIIC continues to nurture a dynamic, diverse, and world-class IP community in Canada.

# 2024 Membership Overview

**91%** Retention Rate

**+1950** PEAK ACTIVE MEMBERS

**65%**  
Registered Agents or IP Lawyers

**18%**  
Affiliates

**17%**  
Fellows & Emeritus

**7%**  
Certified Patent or Trademark Administrators

**5%**  
Students or Agents in Training





## Awards

IPIC Member Awards honour outstanding contributions and leadership from outstanding members and are presented each year at the IPIC annual conference during the Gala, this year the **IPIC2024** Gala took place on September 27, 2024, at Delta Hotels St. John's Conference Centre.

### Member of Distinction Award

**Lorne M. Lipkus** for having made significant contributions to IPIC for over 20 years was presented with a Member of Distinction Award. Lorne is the founding partner in the Toronto, Ontario, law firm of Lipkus Law LLP and has demonstrated significant leadership, commitment, and continuous dedication to protecting intellectual property rights, combating counterfeiting, and raising awareness of the IP profession in Canada. Through his persistent efforts in shaping Canadian laws and policies, delivering in-depth workshops, mentoring fellow professionals, and coordinating multi-jurisdictional enforcement actions, Lorne has helped build a collaborative IP community, promoted networking and knowledge-sharing, and notably advanced the field of IP in Canada.



### Member of Distinction

**Lorne Lipkus**

Lawyer  
Lipkus Law LLP

### Shelley Jones Outstanding Contribution Award

**Christopher (Chris) Dejardin** for having gone above and beyond expectations of IPIC volunteers and for playing a key role in adapting trademark training to the new exam format, developing significant content and teaching, and serving as Chair of the Trademark Agent Training Committee for a second term. Chris was presented with the award in recognition of his leadership and dedication, which allowed IPIC to adapt its trademark agent exam prep courses to the new format and develop IPIC's first Trademark Agent Knowledge Test.



### Shelley Jones Outstanding Contribution Award

**Christopher (Chris) Dejardin**

Trademark Agent, Partner  
Cassan Madean IP Agency Inc.

### Roger T. Hughes Future Leader Award

**Ahmed Elmallah** for his significant contributions to IPIC's Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC), including the revamping of IPIC's student outreach initiatives, the renaming of the committee, and engaging with IPIC's Indigenous student program to foster stronger connections with universities and community groups. Ahmed has also led new initiatives such as the virtual networking event "Leaders of Today Meeting Leaders of Tomorrow," ensuring continued engagement with future IP practitioners.



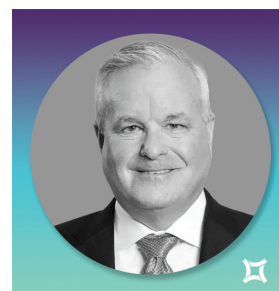
### Roger Hughes Future Leader Award

**Ahmed Elmallah**

Associate, Patent and Trademark Agent  
Belmore Neidrauer LLP

### Peter W. McBurney Memorial Award for Professional Excellence

**Peter Wilcox** for having demonstrated outstanding excellence in his practice over the past year was presented with the award. Peter is a lawyer, registered patent agent, registered trademark agent, and partner at Belmore Neidrauer, who served as lead counsel representing Janssen in landmark patent litigation involving the drug paliperidone palmitate. His successful advocacy in multiple Federal Court of Appeal matters over the last 12 months addressed significant patent law issues relating to infringement, invalidity, and procedure, resulting in a notable, positive impact on Canadian IP policy. Peter's contributions reflect his remarkable dedication, expertise, and leadership, and IPIC is honoured to recognize him with this prestigious award.



### Peter W. McBurney Memorial Award for Professional Excellence

**Peter Wilcox**

Partner  
Belmore Neidrauer LLP

## Top Highlights in Communications

**Careers in IP Campaign:** 150,000+ views across all platforms, 1,000+ unique visitors in the first month and 100 webinar attendees for “Working in IP without a Law Degree”.

**IPIC Weekly IP Newsbreak:** Continues to achieve open rates well above industry average.

**Social Media Engagement:** Notable increases in engagement on LinkedIn, and Instagram with focused content around upcoming events, member spotlights, and EDI initiatives.



**2,847 followers**  
92 posts



**6,868 followers**  
326 posts



**472 followers**  
119 posts

## Looking Ahead

**Centennial Planning:** IPIC’s Centennial Committee has started preparing for our 100th anniversary, ensuring a memorable celebration of IPIC’s rich history and forward-looking vision.

**Ongoing Partnerships:** Continual collaboration with CIPO, CPATA, and global IP associations to foster best practices and address emerging challenges, such as AI innovation and privacy in IP.

**Member-Focused Innovation:** With the new AMS platform and enhanced networking tools, IPIC will further elevate member engagement, offering a seamless, tech-forward experience that supports professional development and community building.

*As IPIC moves into 2025, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting our members, advocating for robust IP policies, and fostering an inclusive, world-class IP community in Canada. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and collaboration in making 2024 another milestone year for IPIC.*



Intellectual Property  
Institute of Canada

Intellectual Property Institute of Canada  
360 Albert Street, Suite 550, Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7  
613-234-0516 | [ipic.ca](http://ipic.ca)