

Five-Year Strategic Plan Summary 2022 -2026

Accelerating Job Creation
Through Innovation



Introduction

For over 34 years, OCI has played a key role in the innovation ecosystem, from catalyzing innovation through programming and supporting industry-academic partnerships to connecting players across the province, with the vision of increasing prosperity through innovation.

An innovation-first mandate has been especially vital this year because the COVID-19 global pandemic forced many businesses to rethink their service delivery and pivot almost overnight. Finding innovative ways to maintain relevance and continue to collaborate with stakeholders, as the economy continues down an uncertain path, is no longer a nice-to-have, but a must-have.

OCI's unique position as a pan-provincial innovation collaboration platform with reach across all industrial sectors, ability to convene the right players at the table, and track record of driving "where next happens" is now more critical than ever before.

This strategic plan builds on OCI's more than three decades of success and will guide and drive OCI's overall strategic focus, priorities, and operations over the next five years in delivering on its mandate to support Ontario's innovators.

The key components of our strategic plan are summarized in the following diagram, which reflects OCI's existing mandate and outlines a new vision and mission supported by our corporate values and a new set of strategic goals, objectives, and performance measures.

Our strategic plan is a living document – one that puts strategy into action. OCI will review and update this plan on a regular basis to continuously reflect our progress made, and to adapt to changing market realities, program requirements, and innovation ecosystem needs.

Message from the Chair of the Board and CEO

It is with great pleasure that we share the Ontario Centre of Innovation's (OCI) five-year strategic plan.

As Ontario's economy has begun to recover and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an exciting time for OCI as we build on our strong foundation of past achievements to meet new challenges and capitalize on new opportunities in advanced and emerging technologies.

For over three decades, OCI has been proud to work in close partnership with industry, academia, and government – harnessing the potential of Ontario's innovators and driving tangible economic outcomes – to catalyze the creation and retention of tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in private sector investments in innovation.

This plan reflects input from partner engagement and consultation with stakeholders across industry, academia, and government, as well as our Board of Directors and staff. We are committed to working together with our partners to deliver on our priorities while ensuring that our road map reflects the needs and expectations of our stakeholders; to stay agile, we will revisit it as required to respond to the changing needs of our community and emerging opportunities.

We offer our sincere thanks to the Government of Ontario for entrusting us with the important mandate of developing and delivering programs that accelerate the development, commercialization, and adoption of advanced technologies to create jobs and build a strong knowledge-based economy in Ontario.

We would like to thank everyone who shared their time and input with us. As we implement our new strategic plan, we will continuously seek input and chart our progress to ensure that we achieve our goals. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with all our stakeholders because their success is Ontario's success.



Dan Patterson
Chair of the Board of Directors



Claudia Krywiak
President & CEO

Message from the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Our government recognizes the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI) as a key partner in the development, commercialization, and deployment of made-in-Ontario technologies.

Its ongoing collaboration with industry, government and academia is a great example of how partnerships can spur innovation, grow economic ecosystems and create opportunities in new markets around the globe to drive economic success at home.

The results of OCI's efforts for 2020-2021 are impressive. Despite the challenging circumstances of the past year, OCI, industry and partners invested close to \$234 million into collaborative R&D and commercialization projects across the province.

As a result, Ontario's innovation ecosystem delivered the following impressive outcomes:

- 5,644 jobs created and/or retained across Ontario's small and medium-sized enterprises and large firms.
- \$265.2 million in incremental sales revenues reported by supported start-ups.
- \$503.3 million in company generated follow-on investments.

As OCI and our government continue to work closely to drive prosperity, we want to continue to prime Ontario companies for success by accelerating their development of innovative products and solutions.

Advanced technologies initiatives, such as the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN), are helping equip Ontario companies to grow and compete globally.

By working together, we will unleash our economy, support recovery, create jobs for the people of Ontario, and help our province maintain its place as the economic engine of Canada.



Hon. Victor Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development,
Job Creation and Trade

The Strategic Plan

Our five-year strategic plan defines our future direction and priorities. It confirms our mandate, vision, and mission, and defines the strategic goals, objectives and performance measures that will guide the ongoing operations and assessment of OCI's performance. All of which is supported by our corporate values.

This plan clearly demonstrates our value proposition to the ecosystem, our core business offerings, and our hopes and aspirations for the future of innovation and technological advancement and adoption in Ontario.



Mandate

The mandate identifies the shared priorities and objectives between OCI and its government partners.

“Develop and deliver programs that accelerate the development, commercialization, and adoption of advanced technologies to drive job creation.”

Vision Statement

As OCI looks towards the future, its new vision statement reflects the role it aspires to play in Ontario's innovation ecosystem.

“To be at the centre of innovation in Ontario – driving economic growth and job creation through investments in the commercialization and adoption of new technologies.”

Mission Statement

OCI's mission statement describes the daily activities and operations needed to catalyze its vision and deliver on its mandate to the benefit of all of our Ontario.

“To bring industry, academic, and government partners together and invest in collaborative R&D, technology development, and commercialization opportunities that will generate the highest return on innovation for Ontarians.”

OUR VALUES

Collaboration • Empowerment & Leadership Communication • Agility • Accountability

Trust and respect are at the heart of OCI's values. Without them, none of the other values can be realized.

We conduct ourselves with the highest standards of professionalism and act in ways that earn the trust and respect of our internal and external stakeholders.

We foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued, respected and supported.



COLLABORATION

The success of one advances the success of all

As a connector within the province of Ontario, collaboration is key to the success of our programs and our organization. We collaborate with colleagues, partners, and stakeholders, both internally and externally to work through challenges, co-create solutions, and support each other with the guiding principle that we all have a role to play in achieving success.



EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP

Lead by example and instill confidence in each other

We instill confidence in each other and empower one another to act as leaders. Provide the trust and flexibility to allow each other to take on responsibility, act with authority, and have the autonomy to go the extra mile. We celebrate successes and learn from failures, we continuously grow, and we lead by example.



COMMUNICATION

Communicate clearly, openly and honestly

Effective communication is critical to: keeping our internal and external stakeholders engaged, facilitating opportunities to have everyone's voice heard, listening with intent, and realizing the full potential of each other. We embody transparency in our communications, encouraging the free exchange of ideas and the sharing of knowledge.



AGILITY

Be responsive and continuously adapt to meet opportunities

We are responsive and agile to build, deliver and support the changing and growing needs of our stakeholders. We are committed to continuous improvement and operational excellence. We are at the forefront of new and rapid developments in technology and continue to respond with speed and accuracy to meet new opportunities.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Act with integrity, and own our actions and results

We are accountable to our stakeholders. We act with integrity and own our actions and results. We foster a culture of ownership in the organization, share responsibility, and deliver on our commitments.

Strategic Goals and Objectives

The strategic goals define the “buckets of activity” that, acting together, will drive the future success of OCI in delivering on its vision and mission. Each goal is supported by several key objectives that will guide the ongoing organizational focus and allocation of resources.

The goals and objectives are interconnected. They do not exist in isolation from one another and should be considered in terms of their collective contribution to delivering on OCI’s mandate, vision, and mission. They will be supported by detailed implementation activities as outlined in OCI’s annual business plan.

ACCELERATE the commercialization of IP to drive economic growth in Ontario	CATALYZE the adoption of advanced technologies to create new, and re-invigorate existing, industries	ADVANCE Ontario’s talent to acquire the skills to succeed in the digital economy and provide companies with a competitive edge	CONNECT researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors and enable coordination across the innovation ecosystem to help companies scale-up	BUILD AND SUSTAIN organizational capacity to ensure OCI has the resources and talent to deliver on priorities while meeting industry, government, and academic stakeholder expectations
O B J E C T I V E S				
Maximize return on innovation by supporting opportunities with the highest commercialization potential	Work with Canada’s large and medium-sized R&D leaders and anchor firms to build business-led networks and address industrial challenges	Support Ontario companies to attract and upskill talent to accelerate technology development	Work collaboratively with regional partners to foster coordination across the innovation ecosystem	Deploy a human resources strategy that fosters and supports a high-performing team with the requisite skills and resources
De-risk start-ups commercializing Made-in-Ontario IP by providing seed funding and connections to customers and investors	Support technology pilots to enable all sectors and regions to reap the benefits of Ontario’s thriving tech sector	Support experiential learning opportunities and career development in emerging and evolving industries	Deploy “feet-on-the-ground” business development activities province-wide	Diversify funding, obtaining new and alternate sources of revenue in alignment with priorities and mandate
Support world-class collaborations between Ontario’s industry and post-secondary institutions	Provide SMEs with access to advanced technology platforms and living labs to drive technology adoption	Work with stakeholders to attract international entrepreneurs to land in Ontario	Develop strategic alliances and joint initiatives to drive to innovation	Conduct ongoing market analysis to ensure that programs address market trends and stakeholder needs
	Address private and public sector challenges with Made-in-Ontario technologies and advance innovation procurement			Deploy a communication and engagement strategy that proactively communicates OCI’s successes

Measuring Success – The Return on Innovation

The purpose of OCI’s strategic plan is to drive measurable results that benefit all of Ontario. Over the life of the plan, OCI will assess its success by focusing on the following measures and targets:



PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
Number of companies supported	10,000
Number of jobs created and retained	50,000
Total incremental sales	\$2 billion
Total follow-on investments	\$5 billion
No. of new patents/products/services	20% increase



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