



Policy Name	<b><i>Intellectual Property in Research</i></b>		
Policy #	RI 5.0	Category	Research & Innovation
Policy Owner	VP Academic, Neil Fassina	Effective Date	December 16, 2015
Policy Lead	AVP Research & Innovation, Chris Dambrowitz	Review Date	December 2018
Approved by	Executive Committee	Approval Date	December 16, 2015
Related Policies and Procedures	See Section 5		

**1.0 Policy Statement**

NAIT’s vision is to be the most relevant and responsive post-secondary institution in Canada, and one of the world’s leading polytechnics. To achieve these objectives, NAIT must be a leader in both polytechnic education and in applied research. These two roles – polytechnic education and applied research – are set out in statute (the *Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act*) and in NAIT’s vision statement. The Letter of Expectation between the Ministry of Innovation & Advanced Education and NAIT further identifies the Province’s mandate for NAIT to “...[conduct] research with an immediate and identifiable commercial or industrial application that meet the needs of both Alberta and the unique demands of the...[Edmonton and Northern Alberta] regions.” Applied research is critical to Alberta industry and our economy, providing a foundation for productivity, economic growth, commercialization, and competitive advantage.

**2.0 Scope**

- 2.1 This policy and associated procedure applies to NAIT’s industrial collaborators and external applied-research stakeholders and internally to NAIT’s employees and students engaged in applied research.
- 2.2 The *Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta’s Publicly Funded Advanced Education System* recognizes NAIT as one of two polytechnics within Alberta’s post-secondary learning system, with a mandate to engage in applied research and scholarly activity.
- 2.3 Various federal statutes, namely the *Copyright Act*, the *Patent Act*, the *Trade-marks Act*, the *Industrial Design Act*, the *Integrated Circuit Topography Act*, and the *Plant Breeders’ Rights Act* govern different forms of intellectual property. Canada adheres to various international copyright conventions, such as the Berne Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, and the Rome Convention.

- 2.4 Copyright owners protected under the Canadian *Copyright Act* are entitled to standards of copyright protection in over ninety countries.
- 2.5 The Vice-President Academic & Provost is NAIT's senior academic, research and student services officer. The roles and responsibilities of this position includes strategic leadership of NAIT's academic mission and strategic leadership for applied research and enterprise development. As Policy Owner, the Vice-President Academic & Provost may delegate responsibility to the Associate Vice-President – Research & Innovation as Policy Lead for the development, administration, and maintenance of procedures to be implemented in compliance with NAIT's IP policy framework.

### 3.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
Intellectual Property	The legal rights that result from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary, and artistic fields (Source: Canadian Intellectual Property Office).

### 4.0 Guiding Principles

Applied research is critical to Alberta industry and our economy, providing a foundation for productivity, economic growth, commercialization, and competitive advantage. Applied research is one of two lines of business for NAIT's Academic Portfolio, and one of NAIT's two fundamental roles as a polytechnic. Three hallmarks lie at the heart of applied research as executed within a polytechnic institution:

- **Industry-Driven**  
Industry is fundamentally a partner - in identifying the challenge, in pursuing the work, and in mobilizing the knowledge.
- **Moves at the Speed of the Industry**  
Addressing problems specified by industrial partners to enable them to be more competitive in the near-term: often weeks or months, rather than years or decades.
- **Intellectual Property (IP) Remains with Industry**  
Industry maintains and advances the IP that will allow them to remain competitive.

The Board of Governors supports NAIT employees and students in the engagement of applied research and scholarly activities, including instances of those activities that may result in the creation of intellectual property. The Board supports a knowledge mobilization model for NAIT that shares and mobilizes new knowledge, and the IP derived from its development, toward real-world implementation, as a strategy to achieve the outcomes and expectations of NAIT's vision and mandate.

## 5.0 Other Related Documents

### Related Policies

RI 1.0 Academic Freedom in Research

RI 2.0 Academic Integrity and Responsibility in Research

RI 3.0 Conflict of Commitment in Research

RI 4.0 Conflict of Interest in Research

RI 6.0 Applied Research Administration

RI 9.0 Recovery of Costs of Research

RI 10.0 Research Involving Human Subjects

RI 11.0 Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Conduct of Research

RI 12.0 Use of Animals in Teaching and Research

RI 13.0 Research Involving Bio-hazards

RI 14.0 Research Involving Radioactive Materials

OA 2.0 Conflict of Interest Code [Policy]

AR 3.0 Scholarly Activity Policy

ER 3.0 Corporate Image Policy

Post-Secondary Learning Act

The Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's Publicly Funded Advanced Education System

Copyright Act, the Patent Act, the Trade-marks Act, the Industrial Design Act, the Integrated Circuit Topography Act, and the Plant Breeders' Rights Act

### Document History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action/ Change</i>
December 2015	Replaced original policy – revised content, new template
Dec/06/2010	Original policy approval.IR 5.0