



Intellectual Property  
Institute of Canada

# Annual Report 2025



# IPIC at a glance

**10 Board Members | 24 Committees | 2000+ Members**  
**400+ volunteers | 10 Staff**

## 2025 Membership Overview

- o 1,879 Peak Membership
- o 64% Agents/Lawyers
- o 67% Affiliates/Associates
- o 17% Fellow & Emeritus
- o 7% Certified Administrator

## Top Highlights in Communications



2,587 followers



7,533 followers



513 followers



**IPIC Team**

# IPIC President & Chair of the Board

During IPIC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Fall 2024, Nathaniel Lipkus was elected IPIC President and Chair of the Board for the 2024-2025 term. President Lipkus has previously served on the IPIC Board in multiple leadership roles and has been deeply engaged in advancing IPIC's advocacy, education, and international profile over many years. Over the past year, IPIC strengthened its voice in national policy discussions, expanded its professional development programming, and advanced key strategic initiatives including IPIC100 and the implementation of EDI Guiding Principles. Under President Lipkus' leadership, IPIC also reinforced its global presence, with representation at the AIPPI World Congress and his election to the Global Network of IP Practitioners' Executive Committee. We look forward to continued momentum and progress under Jason Hynes' leadership in 2026 as IPIC approaches its centennial milestone.



# Board of Directors

In addition to the new President, IPIC members also voted in a new slate of Board Directors for the 2024-2025 term. The Board maintains its diversity of roles — IP lawyers, patent agents, trademark agents, litigators, and corporate practitioners — ensuring balanced representation of the profession.

- o President and Chair - **Nathaniel Lipkus**
- o Vice President - **Jason Hynes**
- o Secretary - **Elizabeth Dipchand**
- o Treasurer - **Joanne Nardi**
- o Immediate Past President - **Paula Clancy**
- o Director - **Neil Padgett**
- o Director - **Catherine Lovrics**
- o Director - **Ahmed Elmallah**
- o Director - **Chris Dejardin**



# Strategic Plan Progress Review

IPIC's 99th year was marked by strong delivery across strategic priorities and good positioning for the organization's centennial era. IPIC advanced its advocacy leadership, deepened professional development programming, and strengthened its role as both a national and international convener of the IP profession.



## Operational Initiatives

- In 2025, IPIC accelerated work on its centennial platform, laying the creative, technical, and storytelling foundation for **IPIC100**. Our centennial is in full production, with the selected creative agency **Cinnamon Toast** leading the development of our promotional strategy.
- The “**Dear IP**” public awareness series successfully launched, featuring accessible, practical answers to real-world IP questions. The campaign has been well-received by both members and external audiences, with content scheduled for 2026.
- IPIC continued prep work toward its new **Association Management Software (AMS) transformation**, streamlining backend systems for membership, events, and communications in preparation for centennial-driven growth.
- The **IP Strategy Series grew by 30%**, supported by improvements in outreach, scheduling, and program positioning within IPIC's education ecosystem.

“... IP Strategy Series grew by 30%, supported by improvements in outreach ...”

## The Voice of IP

IPIC continued to strengthen its advocacy leadership and relationships with government, regulators, and international partners.

Through its IP Trade Policy Committee, IPIC resubmitted its position on the CUSMA agreement to Global Affairs Canada. This submission reinforced IPIC's position on key cross-border IP issues and ensured Canadian IP professionals' perspectives were represented in trade and policy discussions.

- IPIC held targeted discussions with senior officials from ISED, the Minister of Finance's office, and the Prime Minister's Office to advocate for an expanded interpretation of agent-client privilege for Budget 2025. These conversations focused on clarifying legal protections for patent and trademark agents and strengthening confidentiality within professional practice.



IPIC also engaged directly with CIPO representatives through the IP Liaison Committee, raising concerns about the pace of work related to SPLH and broader system modernization issues, while reinforcing the profession's operational needs and expectations.

In light of measurable improvements in CIPO's processing timelines, IPIC determined that its highly resource-intensive monthly

trademark backlog updates were no longer required. This reflected tangible progress on an issue IPIC had championed on behalf of members for several years.

The Stakeholder Report & Incentives Map reached full design completion in 2025 and progressed to Board review. This strategic tool outlines IPIC's ecosystem of partners, funders, and stakeholders and will support more targeted outreach and relationship-building.



## Professional Development & Thought Leadership

Professional education and thought leadership remained central to IPIC's mission in 2025.

The **IPIC2025** Annual Conference achieved

- +200 delegates
- 16 Sponsors
- Trivia Night and Gala sold out
- exceptionally strong satisfaction scores, with 100% of surveyed attendees reporting they were either very satisfied or satisfied.



This reflects the strength of programming, speaker selection, and overall conference experience.



IPIC advanced its Trademark Prep Course for 2025-26, confirming instructors and updating course materials to reflect evolving best practices and examination requirements. This program remains a cornerstone for supporting future trademark professionals.

A series of targeted CPD webinars were delivered throughout the year, focusing on high-impact topics such as:

- branding and trademark strategy,
- cross-border IP enforcement,
- extraordinary legal remedies in IP disputes, and
- key exceptions and developments in patent law.



IPIC successfully delivered all three IPIC-McGill Summer Courses in July and August. The Copyright course added an additional day to accommodate demand and evolving content needs, and overall participant feedback was strongly positive, reinforcing IPIC's position as a leader in advanced IP education.

These programs helped members maintain excellence in practice and stay current on emerging legal and commercial developments.

## Promoting a World-Class IP Community

IPIC strengthened both its internal culture and external leadership profile in 2025.

- IPIC's EDI Guiding Principles were formally published to members, marking a significant milestone in embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion within the organization's governance and operations.



In support of member well-being,

- IPIC delivered a mental health and wellness webinar in May 2025, addressing the pressures of professional life in IP and promoting sustainable career practices,
- The Well-Being Resources page on IPIC's website was updated with refreshed content and tools, and
- IPIC released a dedicated "Well-being in the workplace" e-learning module, in November.



IPIC's President represented the organization at the AIPPI World Congress in Japan, strengthening relationships with global IP organizations and reaffirming Canada's presence in international IP discourse.



President Nathaniel Lipkus was elected to represent North America on the Executive Committee of the Global Network of IP Practitioners, reflecting international recognition of his leadership and strengthening IPIC's voice within global professional networks.

# Awards

IPIC Member Awards honour outstanding contributions and leadership from exceptional members and are presented each year at the IPIC Annual Conference during the Gala.

The 2025 Award winners are:

- o Member of Distinction - **Stephen Perry**
- o Peter W. McBurney Memorial Award for Professional Excellence - **Chris Van Barr**
- o Shelley Jones Outstanding Contribution Award - **Tanya Reitzel**
- o Roger T. Hughes Future Leader Award - **Caroline Henrie**

## IPIC2025 Award Winners



Member of Distinction  
**Stephen Perry**



Peter W. McBurney Memorial Award  
for Professional Excellence  
**Christopher Van Barr**



Shelley Jones Outstanding  
Contribution Award  
**Tanya Reitzel**



Roger T. Hughes  
Future Leader Award  
**Caroline Henrie**



# Looking Ahead

Through strategic advocacy, professional education, and investment in its centennial future, IPIC closed 2025 as a stronger, more visible, and more connected organization. These accomplishments position IPIC to enter 2026 with momentum, credibility, and a clear path toward celebrating 100 years of leadership in Canada's intellectual property profession.



100  
IPIC 2026



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