18.2% of businesses in Canada owned intellectual property (IP).

31.1% of businesses that own intellectual property said that IP has increased their revenue.

Over half of large businesses\(^1\) owned IP…

…versus less than 1 in 5 small businesses.\(^2\)

47.8% of businesses in the clean technology and the information and cultural industries reported owning IP, the highest proportion among all industries.

More than half of businesses in Canada found that complexity of the process was the most difficult factor to overcome in filing or registering for IP protection.

5.9% of all businesses reported having IP that they chose not to protect. Of these, almost half cited financial costs as a factor.

16.4% Rest of Canada

24.8% Quebec

11.2% Atlantic Canada

17.1% Ontario

IP ownership across Canada

1. “Large businesses” refers to businesses with 500 employees or more.
2. “Small businesses” is defined as companies with fewer than 5 employees.


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Intellectual property is a distinct form of creative endeavour such as an invention, literary and artistic work, image or design that may be protected by formal legislation or common law or that has provided commercial value.