POLICY:		POLICY NUMBER:
Research and Innovation		**R-2**
		PREVIOUS/REPLACES: **Research and Innovation**
APPROVED BY: **Executive Council**	EFFECTIVE DATE AS OF: **May 4, 2021**	PRIOR VERSIONS: **December 5, 2018**

1. Policy Statement:

Purpose:

To establish the rationale and expectations of the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (to be referred to as MITT or Institute) regarding the conduct of research by staff, instructors and students that is focused on providing practical benefits to all stakeholders.

Statement:

MITT believes research makes important contributions to our society, is required in all sectors of society and the economy to overcome barriers and problems and address opportunities, is a fundamental skill that should be acquired by all members of society and is an integral component of the mandate of the Institute. Accordingly, MITT is committed to ensuring that all its students have meaningful experiential learning opportunities that expose them to applied research and innovation, engage them in research activities and enable them to develop research skills. More specifically, MITT seeks to develop research skills that help foster innovation and the creation of innovative products, processes and services.

MITT believes that research contributes to enhancing teaching and learning and more effective operations. It supports all employees participating in research and scholarly activities that help the Institute develop new and improved products and services that enhance the experiences of learners, staff, clients and partners, and lead to more effective and efficient use of finances, infrastructure and equipment. Through these activities students and staff develop and apply research and innovation skills that they can utilize throughout their personal and professional lives.

MITT supports collaborative applied research projects conducted with local, regional, national and international industry, community (*e.g.*, non-profit organizations, volunteer sector, etc.) and governmental clients that engage students and staff and lead to new or improved knowledge, products, processes, services and methods that clients implement within their organizations or commercialize in the marketplace.

All research and scholastic activities shall be conducted in accordance with relevant MITT policies and procedures and in compliance with policies of, guidance provided by, and agreements and contracts entered into with, granting agencies, clients, governments, academic partners, donors and other supporting entities.

Principles:

1.1. MITT engages in client-driven applied research in order to further enhance the innovation and entrepreneurial skills of graduates as desired by employers. Applied research provides rich experiential learning opportunities for students when learners work on projects with real-life clients.

1.2. MITT engages in applied research to develop the innovation and entrepreneurial skills of its employees so that they will be better problem solvers and critical thinkers.

1.3. MITT recognizes that it can play a major role in stimulating social, economic and environmental development in Manitoba, nationally and internationally by utilizing its students, employees and resources to support enterprises through collaborative applied research initiatives that solve problems and exploit opportunities.

1.4. MITT is committed to the greatest extent possible to ensure clients engaging in applied research projects with the Institute benefit from the collaboration by receiving outputs that support them in making decisions about their organization.

1.5. To ensure that the applied research initiative is adequately resourced in terms of finances and people, clients will be expected to contribute in cash and/or in kind, the former to support the expenses of running the program and the latter to ensure meaningful interactions occur between clients, staff and students.

1.6. External researchers are welcome to work with MITT students and staff and utilize MITT infrastructure and equipment subject to the proviso that they are willing to comply with all MITT policies and procedures.

1.7. Research results may be disseminated as agreed to by the research partners, but all research conducted by students is expected to be showcased at MITT's Applied Research and Innovation events in a way that protects intellectual property and know-how but provides opportunities for students and staff to display results and their learnings.

1.8. MITT recognizes the importance of increasing the capacity of the Institute around research and scholarly activities and thus provides professional development opportunities for staff in the area of research, scholarly activities, innovation and entrepreneurship to prepare them better to participate in the Institute's innovation initiatives.

1.9. The applied research program at MITT will be directed by the Vice-President, Academic and administered by the "Centre for Learning and Innovation" (CLI).

1.10. All research that involves students collaborating with internal or external clients must be conducted under a contract and approved by an authorized representative of CLI. Instructor involvement requires approval from their supervisor(s).

1.11. All contract research and curriculum-based applied research projects will utilize students. Curriculum-based applied research projects shall be offered as a Work-Integrated Learning modality, to all eligible students where available resources and clients allow.

1.12. MITT supports researchers through the provision of assistance in applying for grants, developing contracts and agreements, administrative structures, infrastructure and equipment. Financial support from Institute funds for research and scholarly activities may be made available at the discretion of the President and disbursed as directed.

1.13. Staff of MITT are expected to utilize research skills in the execution of their job responsibilities and to participate in MITT-offered professional development training to enhance their research, innovation and entrepreneurial skills.

1.14. Instructors and those involved in program and curriculum development are expected to conduct these activities in accordance with the best practices in scholarly activities and the policies of MITT.

1.15. MITT recognizes the value of promoting the applied research expertise of employees and students internally and externally and will provide support to market this expertise through publications and events.

2. Scope:

This Policy applies to all:

2.1 MITT employees who engage in research activities as part of their duties and responsibilities, whether as administrators, clients or as researchers,

2.2 All students of MITT who engage in research delivered through curriculum or as volunteers, and

2.3 All clients of MITT when engaging in research projects in collaboration with MITT.

3. Procedure:

To be determined after the policy has been endorsed.

4. Administration:

The Vice-President Academic is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to.

5. Review:

This policy will be reviewed every five years by Executive Council. This policy shall remain in effect until amended or revoked regardless of the five-year review.

6. Reference:

Research:

Administration of Research
Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Subjects
Integrity in Research and Scholarship
Intellectual Property

General:

Community Sponsorships
Conflict of Interest
Copyright/Fair Dealing
MITT Expectations of Staff

7. Definitions:

See Applied Research Policy Definitions (R-6)