

Mental Health International (MHI)
REPORT on MENTAL HEALTH in the ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
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SERIES OF RECAPS (5)

**IBM CEO: 'prepare employees for artificial intelligence or face social unrest;'
Royal Bank of Canada says 25% of Canadian jobs to be disrupted**

(Report author Bill Wilkerson, LL.D. (Hon) was a former corporate chief and senior executive and a specialist in crisis management. His background ranges across business, government, politics, the arts, broadcasting, and major league sports.

Bill is MHI Executive Chairman and McMaster University Industry Professor of International Mental Health and in the mental health field, Wilkerson:

- *Co-Founded and led the Canadian-based Global Business and Economic Roundtable on Addiction and Mental Health (1998-2011).*
- *Chaired a business-led Pan-European campaign targeting depression in the workplace (2013-17).*
- *Founded and chaired a five-city (Washington, Ottawa, Boston, Toronto, Denver) US/Canada Forum on Mental Health and Productivity (2007-13).*

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA (June, 2019)- The Royal Bank of Canada says more than 25% of Canadian jobs will be heavily disrupted by AI. Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, projects that by 2025, there will be more than 50 billion devices connected to the Internet. This foretells disruption in a wide range of industries including offshore activities.

McKinsey has estimated that digitization of both technical and non-technical work may automate 60 to 90 per cent of routine manual tasks in traditional manual jobs. The World Economic Forum in its "Future of Jobs" report, says "creativity will become one of the top three skills that workers will need by 2020".

Creativity is a cognitive function, a brain skill and a principal target of the most disabling of all health problems afflicting working populations – depression, blood pressure, anxiety.



As the era of AI takes hold, the Forum foresees sweeping changes to the nature of work powered by a “Fourth Industrial Revolution” and the advent of what the CEO of IBM calls “new collar jobs.”

There is a consensus that the kinds of work that AI will take over might be classified as repetitive labor, scripted customer service and telemarketing, narrow fields of work like banking services, and jobs with no face-to-face human contact.

IBM Chief Executive Ginni Rometty says the “skills gap and job insecurity” relating to AI (and automation) are real.” She says, “when we talk of a skills crisis, I really do believe that 100% of jobs will change.”

The crisis, though, can be overcome. Ms. Rometty told the World Economic Forum at Davos that she wants to see the development of a new education and career model, ‘new collar jobs, not blue or white.’ This means, she says, investing in skills development and responding in real time to changes in present and future jobs. Without this, she forecasts social unrest.

France’s Minister of Labor, Muriel Penicaud, said her country was giving employees 500 Euros a year to choose training of their own choice. “Today, access to capital is easier than access to skills,” she said, urging “pro-action. “

Meanwhile, the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and the Brookfield Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship have built a roster of experts to measure the impact that automation is likely to have on Canadian jobs.

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