

## **REPORT on MENTAL HEALTH in the ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

(full report available at [www.mentalhealthinternational.ca](http://www.mentalhealthinternational.ca))

### **SERIES OF RECAPS (1)**

#### **Vast and Fast Infusion of Artificial Intelligence is Reservoir of Risk for the mental health and wellbeing of millions across the world**

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*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 fast and vast infusion of artificial intelligence into workplaces of the digital economy represents a reservoir of risk for the mental health and wellbeing of millions of across the world.

The world is crossing an historic bridge spanning human and artificial intelligence and the result is a meeting of two minds, one human and one not. Can we keep them both healthy? That is unclear.

The report, formally titled - 'OF TWO MINDS – One Human, One Not: Mental Health in the Era of Artificial Intelligence – is being distributed among leaders in business and science across the world.

Based on this report, the President and CEO of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Dr. Allan Bernstein, and Quebec Chief Scientist Dr. Remi Quirion, have

agreed to incorporate mental health considerations into the AI strategies of the Governments of Canada and Quebec.

CIFAR has been commissioned by the Government of Canada to develop a Pan-Canadian Strategy on Artificial Intelligence and Dr. Quirion launched the Quebec International Observatorium on the Societal Effects of Artificial Intelligence.

The Report makes the case for investments to prepare employees for the waves of invasive change that lie ahead due to the revolution in artificial intelligence.

The report is framed by Dr. Bernstein's observation that the AI and genomics revolutions will "force us to revisit our cherished views of what it means to be human." In this context, and based on a six-month analysis of AI project impact and "promise and peril" projections by experts in the field, the Report finds that:

- AI represents a clear and present danger to the livelihood and health of hundreds of millions of working people and their families worldwide.
- AI threatens to displace and replace human beings in whole jobs and specific tasks on an unprecedented scale.
- Some 375 million jobs will be rotated out of those jobs and according to consulting giant McKinsey, 60-90% of all current jobs will be affected by AI.

Unless governments, business and employers in all fields prepare for this revolution by retraining workers, creating replacement jobs that demand distinctly human traits, and forging new education and career models, social unrest and alienation will intensify in a world already fractured by income inequality and a gaping 'have-have not' divide.

If AI blows like a blizzard or drops like a bomb on the workplace as the world makes the transition to a brain-based, digital economy, the most significant unintended consequence of this revolution will be to increase the burden of human distress, disquiet and mental disorders across the world.

As the AI revolution takes hold, working populations must be prepared for the jolting adjustments triggered by AI. The Deep Learning of machines will generate Deep Stress for people who face the invasive uncertainty and disruption caused by AI technologies.

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