



## PROBUS Club of Central Edmonton Newsletter

September 2023

Editor: Ken Hoffman

Website: [www.probus-central-edmonton.com](http://www.probus-central-edmonton.com)

Email: [probus.cent.ed@gmail.com](mailto:probus.cent.ed@gmail.com)

### Sept 19 Presentation



Dr. Perry Kincade, founder of KEI Network, spoke to us about "The History and Hysteria Surrounding AI and ChatGPT." Dr Kincade started by sharing his personal history leading up to how he ended up in Alberta and his path to his current role and interest in AI. He is currently leading KEI Network, a private sector organization. He brought two associates from KEI to assist in answering questions. The KEI Network is comprised of people with small business interests and a global perspective. The "Network" started in 2001 as a small business advisory for KEI (Kinkaide Enterprises Inc.)

He spoke to the topic from the view of a "change agent", since it represents significant change.

There are a number of apps available on the market that deliver chat generative AI ability including:

- ChatGPT
  - BingChat
  - Google AI
  - DeepAI

Behind all these APPs is the digitized human knowledge available on the web. Interestingly, he stated that data available to a particular APP is limited by the creation date of its knowledge base or most recent update, when using an APP you should be aware of the relevant date.

The following paragraphs are taken from the internet they speak to the technical side of the issue:

"ChatGPT is an AI language model that was trained on a large body of text from a variety of sources (e.g., Wikipedia, books, news articles, scientific journals). The dataset only went up to 2021, meaning that it lacks information on more recent events.

It's also important to understand that ChatGPT doesn't access a database of facts to answer your questions. Instead, its responses are based on patterns that it saw in the training data." From Scibbr.com (ChatGPT has since been updated.)

(As I searched the internet for more information, I came across a daunting array of technical jargon, that suggest the complexity of the software behind a relatively simple human interface.)

In order to prepare the presentation, he put the question "what should he speak to us about" to ChatGPT and it immediately generated the list of subjects to cover. Using one of these APPs was described as being easy, he illustrated this by telling us a story about his granddaughter using it to prepare a story, she put in the story's parameter, and it generated a story, drawing on its extensive knowledge base.

ChatGPT was released about a year ago and has been downloaded by millions. Now the market is flooded by competitors' products. We have all seen stories about AI in the paper, people using it to prepare books, songs, intellectual papers, etc.

He predicted that the existence of these tools will impact many fields and relationships, illustrating the possible impact of medical profession and patients. He advocated for the need to change, e.g. healthcare. He shared many examples of "probes" (questions) he experimented with to illustrate the varied uses. We learned that:

- Answers to questions are likely in the public domain,
- Legal questions arise around AI and law has not kept pace,
- There are proprietary products such as those developed by investment managers and others.

The ability to generate avatars that speak about a subject, and the expected improvement in these images, is described as one of the risks. There were a great many examples shared, from writing a story, how to solve homelessness, writing a poem, etc. In the end, his key point is we should give it a try, it is easy and useful. It will

become more pervasive and thus impact much more of the world around us, therefore we need to improve our understanding of it.

He spoke extensively about the service and webinars his organization offers. If you are interested in these, check his website [www.keinetwork.net](http://www.keinetwork.net). He answered the many questions posed to him. I found the presentation interesting yet challenging. If you wish to learn more try asking ChatGPT.

## Sept Tour

On September 28 we toured the Legislative Assembly Building. The following was generated by BingChat when I asked about the Leg Building. It echoes the presentation we received.

“The Alberta Legislature Building is located in Edmonton and serves as the meeting place of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and the Executive Council of Alberta. It is often referred to as “the Ledge” . The building is open to visitors and offers free guided tours of the facility throughout the week. The tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and visitors can experience live debates from the public gallery.”

(Give the previous presentation, it was interesting to watch the text being generated by my question)



Here we are getting ready for the tour; in the background we can see one of our guides. The other one is partially hidden by Paul. There is no significance to the fact that they are beside the vending machine. We separated into 2 groups of about 5 people each. The group I was with started on the mezzanine. Our Guide spoke to us about the building its history, construction, and design. On a personal note, I am always impressed by the building and what it symbolizes. It is place we should all see.

Here are some facts shared with us:

- Construction started in 1907 (two years after the creation of the province) It was officially opened in 1912.
- Most of the material in the building originated in Canada,
- The Leg is on treaty 6 land and is a traditional meeting place that goes back thousands of years,
- It overlooks the river and on the grounds is the final location of Fort Edmonton. (I watched some of the archeologic excavation of its remains many years ago.)



This is a picture of the rotunda looking at the main entrance. The pool was inserted for the first visit by the Queen.

(Following extracted from Wikipedia.)

“The Alberta Legislature Building was designed... in the Beaux Arts style at the same time as the much larger Saskatchewan and Manitoba legislative buildings.

The cornerstone was laid by Alexander Cameron Rutherford, the first Premier of Alberta, and the Governor General of Canada, Albert Grey, 4th Earl Grey, on October 1, 1909. On November 30, 1911, the first session was held in the building. The building was officially opened by Lord Grey's successor, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn.

The use of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian architectural influences was considered appropriate for a public building, as they suggested power, permanence, and tradition. Beaux-Arts buildings are characterized by a large central dome above a spacious rotunda, a symmetrical T-shaped plan, doors and windows decorated with arches or lintels, and a portico supported by massive columns.

The building is supported on concrete piles and constructed around a steel skeleton. The first floor is faced with Vancouver Island granite;

upper floors feature sandstone from the Glenbow Quarry in Calgary. The interior fittings include imported marble, mahogany, oak, and brass.

The building is about 57 metres (187 ft) in overall height; the project cost over \$2 million at the time. For the centennial of the province of Alberta, stained glass windows with the royal cypher and the emblems of Alberta were installed above from the main entrance of the building. These stained-glass windows were unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II on May 24, 2005”  
 Following are more pictures of the rotunda:



The first picture is of the Dome (thanks Bruce). Next is shows 2 of the flags hung around the rotunda. These flags are from Battalions raised in Alberta service in WW1 and WW2. When these Battalions were decommissioned, their Flag is “Laid Down”. That is, hung in the rotunda, never to move or be touch. They will remain until they turn to dust and joining the people lost in the wars.



Picture of the Chamber showing Speaker’s chair. To his right is the governing party seats and to the left Opposition seats. Beside it is a picture of the ceiling. The ceiling is made of cloth selected to provide the high quality acoustics.



In addition to access to the Chamber on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, the floor’s wall contains portraits of the former premiers and Lieutenant Governors. The picture is a sample of them.  
 We appreciated the guides they were knowledgeable, friendly and open to answering questions. I recommend any who have not toured the building do so.

*Interesting aside:*

These jokes are provided by BingChat feature. I asked for 20 dad jokes and this is the exact text provided.

“Here are 20 dad jokes that might make you chuckle:

1. Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing! 😊
2. Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything! 😏
3. What do you call fake spaghetti? An impasta! 🍝
4. Why did the coffee file a police report? It got mugged! ☕
5. What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta! 🍝
6. Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field! 🌾
7. What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear! 🐻
8. Why did the bicycle fall over? Because it was two-tired! 🚲
9. What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie? Sofishticated! 🐟
10. Why don't oysters give to charity? Because they're shellfish! 🍻
11. What do you call a factory that makes okay products? A satisfactory! 🏭
12. Why did the math book look so sad? Because it had too many problems! 📖
13. What do you call a belt made of watches? A waist of time! ⌚
14. How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together! 🐧
15. Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts! 💀
16. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? A stick! 🗡️
17. Why did the chicken cross the playground? To get to the other slide! 🐔
18. What do you call a group of cows playing instruments? A moo-sical band! 🎵
19. Why did the cookie go to the doctor? Because it felt crummy! 🍪
20. How does a train eat? It goes chew chew! 🚂

I hope these jokes made you smile!”

Next will be Snow, sorry had to say it. Stay healthy.