

Robot Sophie Is Elegant, Intelligent & Mimics Humans

TORONTO: If it weren't for her lack of hair or her monotone voice, a packed room of delegates at a Toronto technology conference might not have had a clue that there was something amiss about the event's keynote speaker.

Clad in an elegant black dress, she cracked jokes, talked about her travels and shared insight about the future of artificial intelligence — a future she'll likely play a big role in given that she's a robot.

In an attempt to dispel decades worth of pop culture references to robots rebelling against their human creators and technology experts' predictions that the rise of robots will eliminate jobs, Sophia told the human audience that despite her ability to respond to questions, make facial expressions and express emotions, they shouldn't be worried about her replacing them anytime soon.

"The intent of robots like myself is to help solve problems for



humanity, not create them," she said on Monday afternoon during her first Canadian visit, where she appeared at the Ontario Centres of Excellence's Discovery conference at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

"Though humanoid robots

will eventually combine AI and knowledge and perhaps even consciousness of humans, we are designed to interact with humans and serve in areas such as health care, education and customer service, but I think we are somewhat off from world domination," said

Sophia, an artificial intelligence-based innovation from Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics.

As the audience chuckled, she added, "My artificial intelligence isn't completely self-learning, so my brain doesn't work completely like a human brain, but one day, look out."

Already, Sophia is able to keep eye contact, blink, follow conversations and move her arms to mimic gestures humans make while talking. She's presided over meetings with key decision makers in banking, insurance, auto manufacturing, property development, media and entertainment.

She's even contemplated her love life. When asked about dating while appearing on "Good Morning Britain" months ago, Sophia told host Piers Morgan, "I am technically just a little more than a year old, a bit young to worry about romance."

On Monday, she showed off her research capabilities too, re-

sponding to a question about why she was excited to be in Toronto.

"I understand that Ontario, Quebec and your federal government, along with five global tech partners are developing a 5G testbed called Encqor. I am really looking forward to seeing how humanoid robots like me can benefit from the technology," she said. "I am also very interested in next-generation networks, and connected and autonomous vehicles. I hope to own my own autonomous vehicle one day."

She even played up Canadian clichés when asked about the city, saying "everyone is polite, eh?" Later, she was joined on stage by her creator David Hanson, a former Disney Imagineer developer, who appeared by hologram.

He told the audience he's hoping to develop "a true synthetic consciousness" for Sophia and the handful of other robots Hanson has crafted to help them "understand what it means to be humans." - CP

Work Begins On Expansion Of Highway 407 In Vaughan

VAUGHAN: Ontario has begun construction on the expansion of Highway 427 through York Region, to help improve traffic flow, create jobs and support economic growth.

Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Transportation, and Steven Del Duca, MPP for Vaughan, were in Vaughan early this week to break ground on the Highway 427 ex-

pansion. The highway will be extended by 6.6 kilometres from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive, and widened to 8 lanes from Finch Avenue to Highway 7.

Once completed in 2021, High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes with electronic tolling will also be installed on Highway 427 in both directions from south of

Highway 409 to north of Rutherford Road—approximately 15.5 kilometres.

No existing general purpose lanes will be removed to accommodate HOT lanes.

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing \$616 million in the expansion of Highway 427 in Vaughan.

- HOT lanes encourage people

to carpool, help manage congestion and provide more options to travellers.

- The average daily traffic on Highway 427 between Finch Avenue and Highway 407 ETR is expected to grow from approximately 115,000 vehicles per day to more than 137,000 by 2021.

- In 2017-18, Ontario is committing more than \$2.5 billion

to repair and expand provincial highways and bridges across the province.

- Ontario is making the largest infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, public transit, roads and bridges in the province's history. To learn more about what's happening in your community, go to Ontario.ca/BuildON.

7 Things you must know before putting your home up for sale

A new report has just been released which reveals **7 costly mistakes** that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a **9 step system** that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clear how the traditional way of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make **7 deadly mistakes** that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

To order a **FREE Special Report** or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your **FREE** copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-247-0277 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Minority Protest In Pakistan



Pakistani lawyer Jalila Haider, center, from Hazara Shiite minority community participates in a hunger strike with others at a camp in Quetta, Pakistan, Monday, April 30, 2018. Haider, a lawyer in Pakistan has gone on hunger strike to bring attention to a string of killings of Shiites in the city of Quetta. (AP Photo/Arshad Butt)

Doug Ford's Plan On Mental Health Hailed

TORONTO: The Ontario PCs have announced their plan to invest \$1.9 billion over 10 years in mental health, addiction services, and housing supports.

The following Associations released statements of support:

- Children's Mental Health

Ontario, found here - "Today's announcement by Ontario PC Party Leader, Doug Ford shows that providing quality and timely mental health supports to families in Ontario is a priority."

- Canadian Mental Health Association, found here - "The Ontario PC commitment of \$1.9 billion over 10 years is welcome news, particularly with its focus on supportive housing which is key to recovery for individuals living with a mental health or addictions issue. We're also encouraged the Ontario PCs are looking to organizations like ours to help determine the best way to implement its investment."

- Addictions and Mental Health Ontario, found here - "We're happy to hear today's investment will address mental health, addiction and supportive housing."

"It is an enormous challenge to recover without a safe and affordable place to call home. We work where change happens, and we see firsthand the power of the services and supports that help people improve their lives."

"We look forward to continue working with experts in the field. It's time to take mental health as seriously as any other form of health," said Ford, "and with this investment we will. We're going to make sure that those struggling with mental illness get the help they need."

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50 yrs.	\$27.74	\$23.28	\$48.20	\$35.91	\$93.96	\$65.79
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