

AI and the Art of the Question

Think about the last time you were curious or needed the answer to a question. Chances are, you turned to your phone or computer's search engine or used an AI tool and had your answer in a heartbeat. Technology has made information a commodity: abundant, instant, and easily acquired.

But a profound quote recently reminded me of what we are at risk of losing in this fast-paced digital age: **"AI has made right answers a commodity. What is important now is a good question."**

When answers become cheap, the value flips entirely to the inquiry. Anyone can press a button to generate a list of facts, a summary of a report, or a standard response. AI can only look backward at data that already exists. It lacks the lived experience, the empathy, and the ethical compass required to look forward. It cannot feel the pulse of a community, nor can it understand the subtle nuances of human connection.

That is why the art of asking the right question has become our most vital tool.

A good question requires intuition, critical thought, and a willingness to dig beneath the surface. It is what sparks a lively, meaningful discussion at a meeting. It is what ignites a new advocacy campaign, pushes back against the status quo, and builds a bridge between differing perspectives. When we ask better questions, we unlock better solutions, solutions that are rooted in wisdom rather than just information.

As we navigate an increasingly automated world, we cannot be content with the first, easiest answers placed in front of us. This is where the true power of our CFUW clubs shines. For over a century, our organization has been built not on passive acceptance, but on a collective commitment to learning, advocacy, and social justice. We are, at our core, a community of women who ask the questions that matter.

When we gather in our local clubs, we aren't just looking for quick fixes. We are asking: *How can we better support vulnerable populations in our communities? What policies will truly protect our environment for future generations? How do we mentor and empower the next generation of women leaders?* These are questions that require human hearts, shared passion, and collaborative wisdom. AI can give us statistics, but only our members can turn those numbers into meaningful action.

Let's continue to champion the curiosity and critical thinking that define us. As we look to the future of our clubs, let's be the ones who ask the hard questions, the thoughtful questions, and the visionary questions that challenge us to grow, connect, and move forward together.

Sandra Shaw, President