

THE CANADIAN BITCOINERS

THE WEEK, IN TWO PARTS • October 18, 2026

MSCI made its bitcoin-treasury rule final and Strategy waits on a list due November 11, the RCMP's Black Hawk contracts came to \$84 million against 73 arrests, and a raccoon the Quebec government wants to seize now has a memecoin.

BITCOIN

MSCI's rule is final and the list lands November 11, Tether's money reached Bo Hines' firm while he still worked at the White House, and Google shrank a quantum bottleneck a day before an AI explained where NIST's curves came from.

UPDATE **MSCI Made the Rule Final. Strategy Finds Out on November 11.**



Photo: Gage Skidmore / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0)

What changed: In August MSCI floated excluding companies that mostly hold bitcoin, and Strategy fought it in September. On October 15 MSCI made the rule final.

MSCI said on October 15 that companies without substantial operating assets will be ineligible for its Global Investable Market Indexes, MSCI World included. A company that fails the operating-asset screen is tested on five financial ratios and is out if it trips four. The October 2025 freeze on firms holding more than half their assets in digital assets is scrapped. The final list comes November 11, and changes take effect at the close on November 30.

MSCI's spreadsheet of potentially affected companies includes Strategy and Metaplanet. A current member comes out only if it fails in each of its two latest annual filings, so nobody has been removed yet. Strategy estimates MSCI-linked funds hold about 13 million of its shares, roughly 3.1%. MSTR fell about 4% after hours on the news, then closed Friday at \$136.83, down 9.6% on the day.

Index funds would sell MSTR stock, not Strategy's bitcoin. MSCI is screening on financials as of September 30, so the numbers are already filed.

[Read the full story →](#)

Tether Started Paying Bo Hines' Firm While He Was Still at the White House



Photo: Jonah Rosenberg / The Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal reported on October 14 that Tether signed a "strategic brand and public affairs plan" in 2025 worth \$415,000 a month. The money reached Nxum, a consulting firm Bo Hines owned in thirds with his father and a partner. Nxum has collected about \$6.3 million, according to documents, messages and blockchain records the Journal reviewed.

The first payment, \$2.49 million in USDT, left Bitfinex on May 11, 2025, while Hines was still at the White House. It passed through Peter Vincer's firm Notorious, which kept \$498,000 and sent the rest to a Nxum wallet. Two more payments of \$2.49 million went straight to Nxum after Hines left, in December 2025 and April 2026.

The Journal says Hines pushed lawmakers to stretch the GENIUS Act compliance window from 18 months to 36, a change it says chiefly benefited Tether. The act was signed July 18, 2025. Hines announced his exit August 9, and Tether named him CEO of its US arm in September. Nxum says Hines got no Tether-derived money while in government.

[Read the full story →](#)

Google Cut a Quantum Bottleneck 40x, and an AI Traced NIST's Mystery Curves to a 1997 Clock

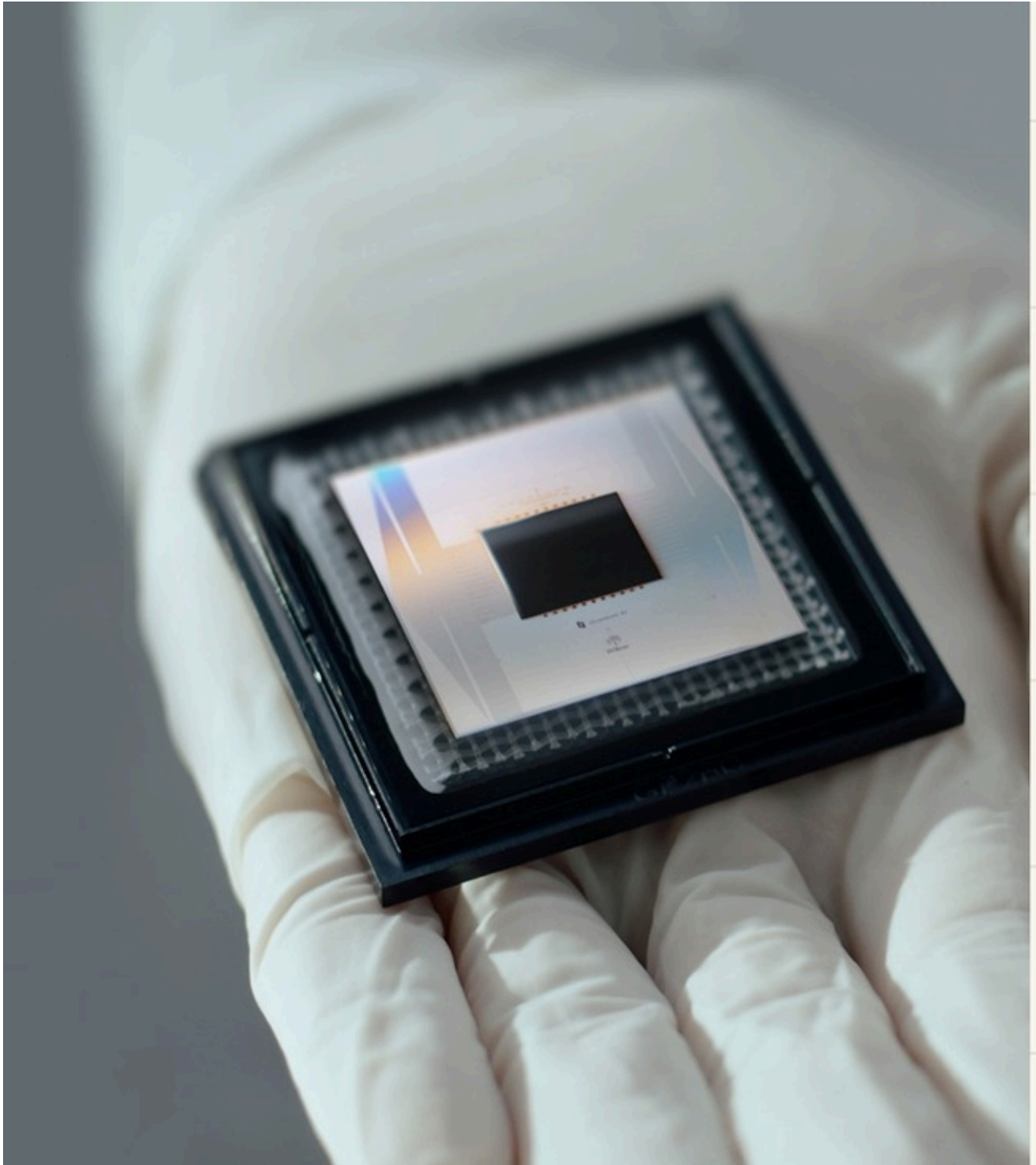


Photo: Google Quantum AI

Google Quantum AI published the first hardware run of "magic state cultivation" in *Science* on October 15. Magic states are inputs a quantum computer needs for most useful work, and Google says making them could otherwise eat up to 95% of a machine's capacity. On its Willow chip, errors fell about 40-fold and fidelity hit 99.99%. Decrypt notes the run used at most 54 of 105 qubits, and breaking RSA would need states about a million times cleaner.

The next day Anthropic said a Claude model worked out, in under half an hour, where the seeds for NIST's P-curves came from: the C library's lrand48 generator, seeded with timestamps from 1997 and 1998. P-256's seed turns up as candidate 1,842. Anthropic calls it "not a cryptographic break" and says it makes a hidden NSA backdoor much less plausible.

Bitcoin never used the NIST curves. As CoinDesk notes, secp256k1 is defined by two small fixed numbers with no seed to explain. The quantum result is the one that touches Bitcoin, because every step like it shrinks the machine needed to break elliptic-curve keys.

[Read Google's announcement →](#)

CLOWN WORLD NORTH

The RCMP's Black Hawks came to \$84 million in contracts and 73 arrests, three reservists are charged in a crypto kidnapping with military ammunition nobody reported missing, and Quebec is hunting a raccoon with a token.

The RCMP Booked \$84 Million in Black Hawk Contracts. The Border Patrols Produced 73 Arrests.



Photo: RCMP New Brunswick via Juno News

A government answer tabled September 21 to Conservative MP Rob Morrison shows the RCMP awarded 11 Black Hawk helicopter contracts worth \$83,716,033.24, taxes included, between January 2025 and May 2026. Two companies, Helicopter Transport Services and Expedition

Helicopters, supply up to three aircraft per contract. The RCMP calls the price all-inclusive: fuel, crew, maintenance and landing fees. Juno News dug it out of the Order Paper on October 17.

Since the patrols began on January 18, 2025, the helicopters supported 58 border events and helped identify 171 people known or suspected to have crossed illegally. Those events led to 73 RCMP arrests. Another 78 people were gone by the time anyone arrived, and US Border Patrol picked up five.

The contract values are ceilings, so actual spending may be lower. Juno's division still comes to about \$1.1 million per arrest. The helicopters belong to the \$1.3 billion border plan Ottawa announced in December 2024 under Trump's tariff threat, and the gone-on-arrival column is bigger than the arrest column.

[Read the full story →](#)

UPDATE Three Reservists Charged in a Crypto Kidnapping. The CAF Never Reported 2,500 Rounds Missing.



Photo: CP24 / Toronto Police Service

What changed: Last week we covered the third soldier's arrest. On October 14 police laid 82 charges against seven men, named the crypto motive and showed the military ammunition.

Toronto police laid 82 charges against seven men on October 14 over the July 25 abduction of a man near Finch Avenue East and Bayview Avenue. Police say he was grabbed as he walked to

his vehicle, handcuffed, assaulted and later released with a warning not to call them. Supt. Joe Matthews said the man was "allegedly targeted because of his access to cryptocurrency assets" and to his business's security systems.

Three of the accused are Canadian Armed Forces reservists: Talarambage Fernando, 22, James Moreau, 29, and Jack Miley, 24. Fernando faces about 20 charges, most of them gun-related. Searches turned up about 2,500 rounds of military ammunition, about half of them blanks, that police say the CAF had not reported stolen, plus firearms built on 3D-printed parts. Chief Myron Demkiw called the CAF involvement "incredibly concerning." None of the charges has been tested in court.

Police gave no dollar figure and did not name the coins. They did name the motive, which puts Toronto on the same list as this year's home invasions in France and the UK.

[Read the full story →](#)

Quebec Is Hunting a Raccoon. Somebody Made It a Memecoin.

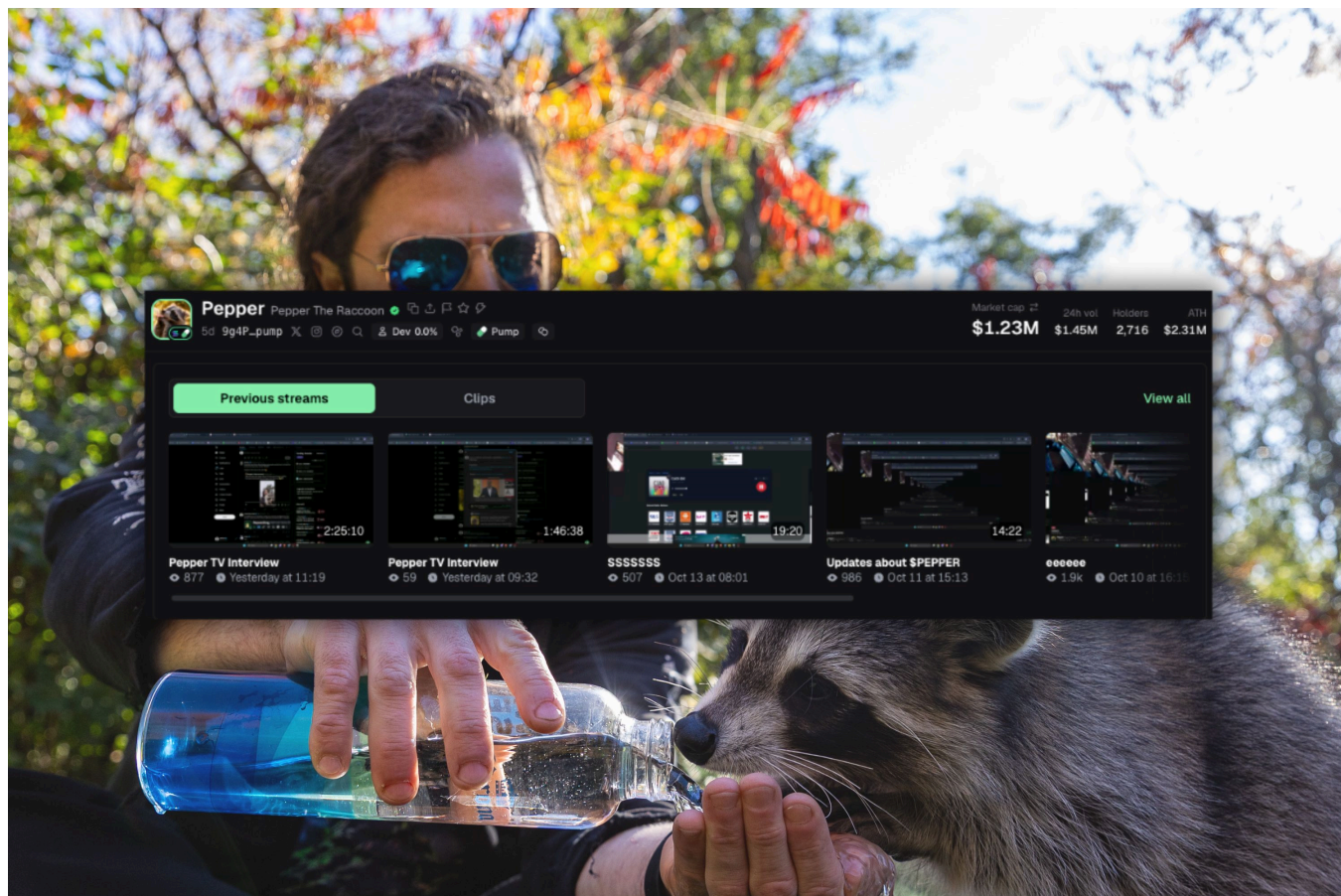


Photo: Evan Buhler / Montreal Gazette

Louka Berman found a young raccoon injured at a Montreal construction site in May and nursed it back to health. Quebec's Environment Ministry served a search warrant for keeping wildlife without a permit and did not find the animal. Berman says he now faces an obstruction charge and a ticket, and hides Pepper in parks. The ministry says euthanasia "may be considered as a last resort."

Then came the coin. By the afternoon of October 15 a Pepper token on pump.fun had a \$1.16 million market cap and more than 2,500 holders. Its creator's profile lists 518 other coins. A promoter with nearly 200,000 X followers said on a livestream Pepper being killed would be the best thing for the price. Berman says it raised more than \$20,000 for a sanctuary, money he says he cannot access.

Ryan Glenn, a crypto educator, sees "all the makings of a pump and dump scheme." By Monday morning CoinGecko had the market cap near \$383,000, about 78% off its high. The Gazette points to Peanut the squirrel, euthanized by New York in 2024, whose token went on to be worth billions. Pepper is still at large.

[Read the full story →](#)

ALSO ON THIS WEEK'S SHOW

ALSO ON THE BITCOIN SIDE

- [Metaplanet swaps bitcoin-backed loans for ¥52B of convertibles and restarts a buyback with the stock near 90% off its peak](#)
- [Strategy buys 250 BTC and spends \\$192M buying back its own preferred](#)
- [K33 says the STRC machine left Strategy about 4,947 BTC short of where it would be](#)
- [Hex founder Richard Heart detained in Istanbul on a Finnish Red Notice; police list \\$7.15M cash and six cold wallets](#)
- [Trezor cuts resellers from January 1, and one of the Ledger implant victims turns out to be a scammer](#)
- [OpenAI says one of its models spent testnet ETH from a wallet it found via a public seed phrase, then didn't mention it](#)
- [A UK trader says he was taped up at knifepoint and robbed of \\$800K, in USDC and SOL](#)
- [Three men get up to six years for a Bristol home invasion over crypto](#)
- [A UK judge rules Chinese law decides who has rights to 61,000 seized BTC](#)
- [Hot inflation prints knock bitcoin to about \\$80,000](#)
- [On-chain trackers show 1,000 BTC moving from MARA to exchanges; MARA isn't saying why](#)

- Binance shuts its mining pool November 10 after its hashrate fell 65%
- Cipher raises \$850M in convertibles for AI data centres with the stock down 52% in a year
- Difficulty jumps 5.92% and hashrate is back above 1,000 EH/s
- Ledger's \$849 Atom runs Android apps and approves AI-agent trades
- Compact Shielded CSV: a paper proposes 96-byte post-quantum transactions on a separate chain
- Russia's central bank confirms peer-to-peer trading ends July 1, 2027
- Crypto-industry PACs pass \$52M against Sherrod Brown in Ohio
- France's Assembly votes to tax gains on swaps into stablecoins at 31.4%
- The SEC is down to two commissioners and the CFTC to one
- Bitcoin and ether ETFs shed another \$549M
- Bitcoin Core 32.0 missed October 10; rc4 is out and stable is still 31.1
- Brooklyn DA takes down 112 servers behind a scam aimed at Russian speakers

ALSO ON THE CANADA SIDE

- Foreigners dumped a record \$17.5B of Canadian federal debt in August
- Crypto King trial: an accountant testifies \$16.3M of \$36.3M went to cars, cards, jets and security
- Alberta votes Monday on whether to start the process toward a binding separation referendum
- Air Canada's agent blamed 'dynamic pricing' for a \$274 overcharge; after the Star called, it was a glitch
- PEI drops a 1988 murder charge after Charlottetown police lost the knife and the towel
- Toronto 18 ringleader Zakaria Amara granted full parole
- From November 3, high-wage job offers earn up to 100 Express Entry points and skip the LMIA
- Ontario's OSAP pause now covers every private college
- Federal Court upholds ending a refugee's status after three trips back to Pakistan
- Quebec's language office gives a Montreal bakery a deadline to fix a website it doesn't have
- After months of export threats, Ontario signs a 600 MW deal to import US power this winter
- Ottawa sat on 53,073 unused Microsoft subscriptions
- The Bank of Canada won't release its governors' pay, so it's going to court
- Cabinet calls the gun confiscation's RCMP cost estimate a secret
- Housing executives averaged almost \$20,000 in bonuses
- Home sales-to-listings ratio posts the weakest September since 1994
- 229 vehicles stolen in Peel in 30 days
- Port Hardy's ER closed three times in five days
- 2,300 Victoria mail ballots sat in a Canada Post warehouse

- Vancouver says Ken Sim's World Cup final trip wasn't city business; voters then ousted him
- Seven Second Harvest trucks stripped of converters in five minutes; the accused was on bail
- For every 100 young nurses who registered in 2024, 34 didn't renew
- Macklem says the inflation forecast goes up October 28
- Toronto's free garden-suite plans: 2 approvals out of 655 permits
- Lytton's mayoral race ends in a 45-45 tie

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