

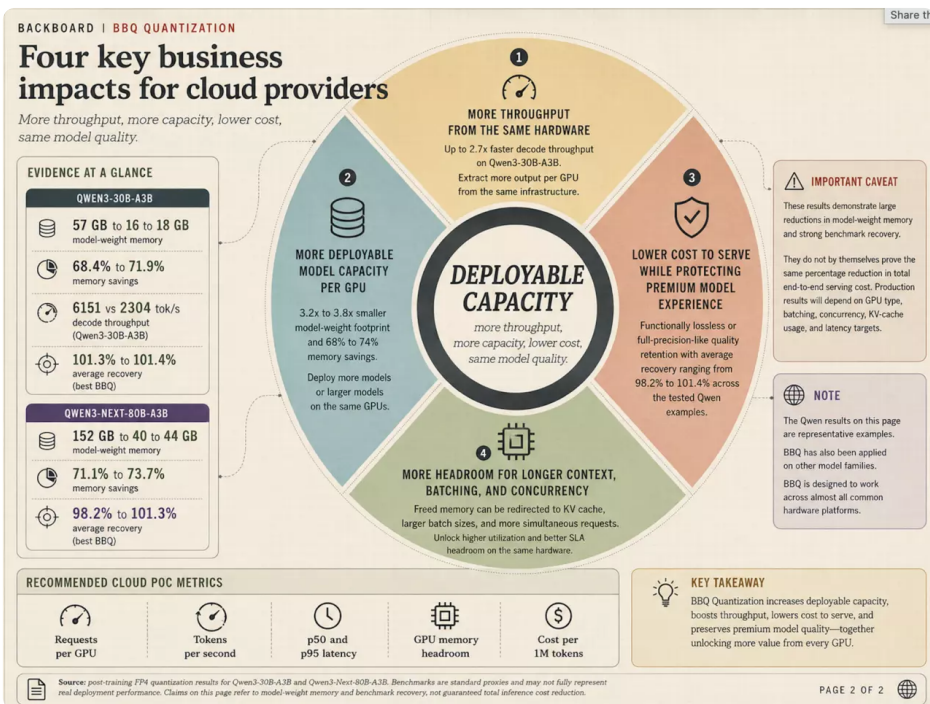
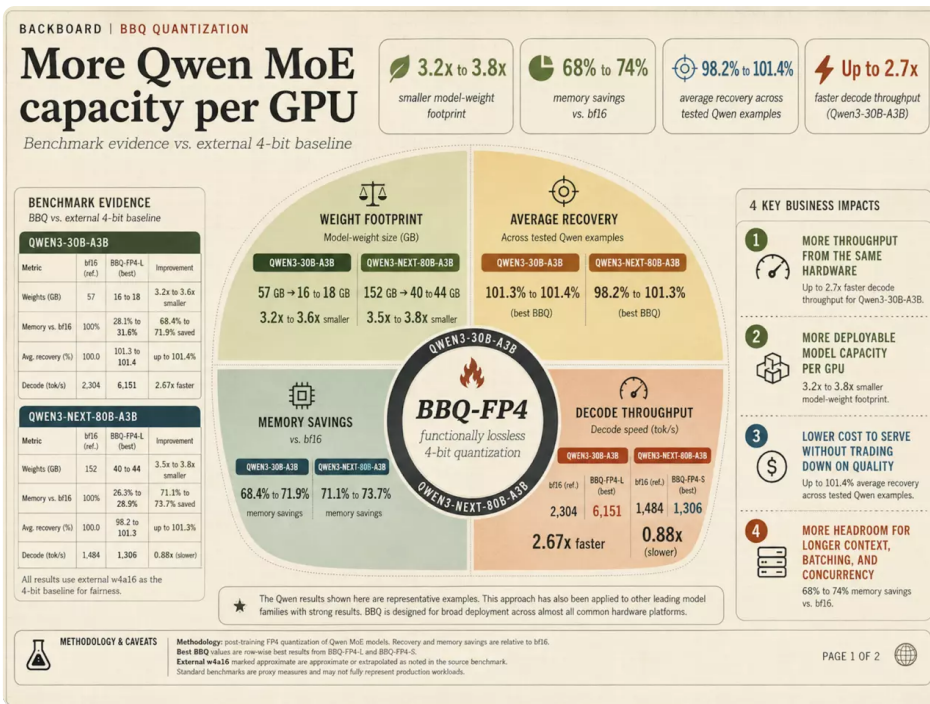
A Canadian AI Breakthrough, Built in Ottawa: Meet the Startup That's Out-Innovating Silicon Valley

On Canada Day, Backboard.io unveils a model-compression breakthrough, a frontier-class coding suite, a multi-model chat app, and the world's #1-ranked AI memory. Built entirely by Canadians, in Canada.

NEPEAN, Ontario, July 1, 2026 -- The world is spending hundreds of billions to build more AI hardware. Backboard.io is taking the opposite bet: get more out of the hardware that already exists, and keep the data inside the customer's walls. Today the company announced four advances that target the issues facing every organization using AI: rising cost, data leaking to outside providers, and the spread of unapproved tools. All of it was built in Nepean, in Prime Minister Mark Carney's riding, by a team made up entirely of graduates of Canadian universities, colleges, and CEGEPs.

BackboardQuant: more AI per GPU

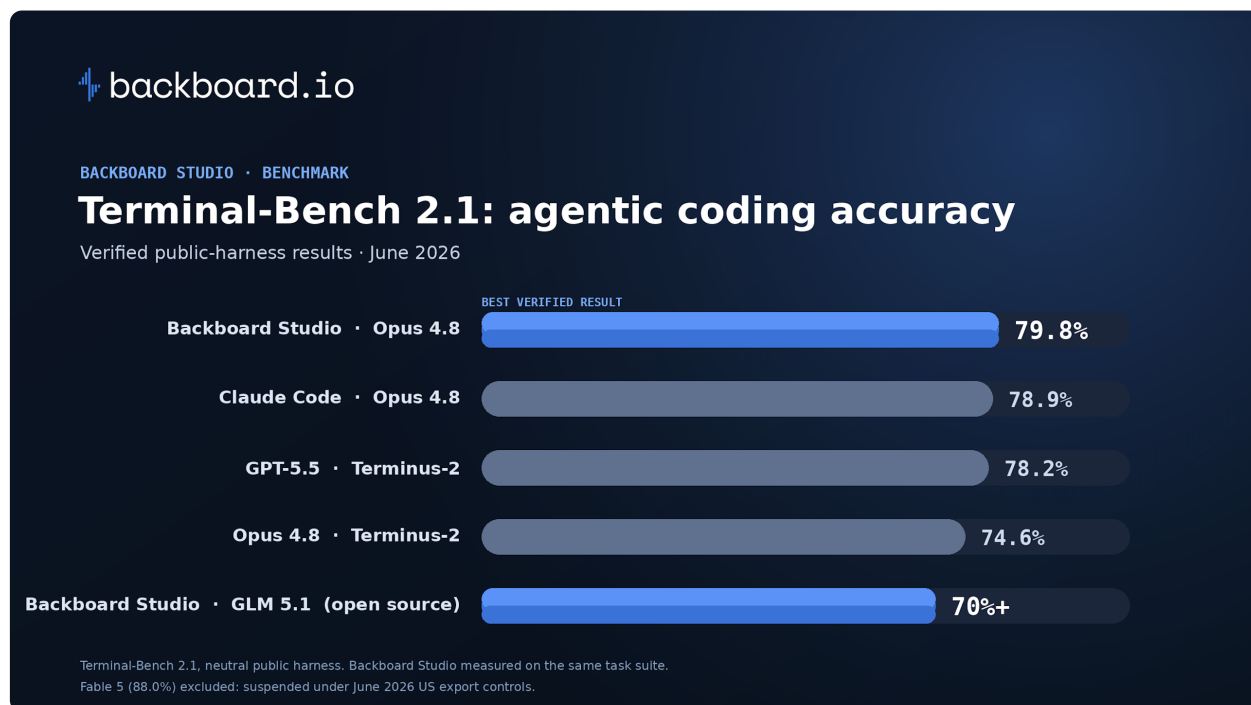
BackboardQuant (BBQ) compresses AI models by up to 70% with functionally no loss in quality. In testing, compressed models retained functionally full-precision performance while running up to 2.7x faster. The result is one GPU doing the work of two or three, easing the data-centre crunch and lowering cost to serve. Developed in Backboard's research lab, it ships built into the company's enterprise deployments.



Backboard Studio: frontier coding for up to 90% less

Backboard Studio matches or beats the leading coding tools from the largest AI labs at up to 90% lower cost. On Terminal-Bench 2.1, the independent standard for agentic coding, Backboard Studio scores 79.8% running Claude Opus 4.8, ahead of the frontier labs' own results on the neutral public harness (GPT-5.5 at 78.2%, Opus 4.8 at 74.6%). Running the open-source GLM 5.1, it clears 70%, frontier-class performance with no proprietary model required. A built-in token optimizer cuts frontier model usage by up to 30% on like-to-like

comparisons. It runs on cloud or self-hosted, so proprietary code never leaves the building. [Available now.](#)



Nash: thousands of AI models in one app

Nash, gives users access to thousands of AI models across text and images in a single chat app, while keeping their memory out of the models' hands. For enterprises, it is the direct answer to shadow AI: one sanctioned app, better than what employees would find on their own. Available now for consumer and enterprise use at hellonash.ai

World #1 in AI memory

Backboard ranks number one on LoCoMo and LongMemEval, the two leading independent tests of AI memory. The results are public and reproducible: [LoCoMo](#), [LongMemEval](#). With Backboard, that memory stays inside the customer's environment, under their control.

"The mandate is there, from both the public and the private sector. They want a Canadian option they can trust. We are here, and you do not need to wait. For too long the story was that Canadians don't buy from Canadians. We don't believe that is true. People simply hadn't heard about us. So here we are. Major enterprises around the world are already working with us. There are no more excuses. Work with us."

Rob Imbeault, Co-founder CEO of Backboard.io, formerly co-founder of Canadian SaaS Unicorn, Assent.

Sovereign by design

Backboard's full stack, the API, the application layer, and the models, can run inside a customer's own cloud. Data never leaves and the system runs under the customer's governance. For governments, hospitals, banks, and critical infrastructure, sovereign AI becomes the default, not a compromise. The message is clear. Canada does not need to wait for sovereign AI. It is already here, and it is winning.

About Backboard.io

Backboard.io is a Canadian AI company helping organizations run advanced AI more affordably, more securely, and under their own control. Its lineup includes BackboardQuant, which shrinks AI models by up to 70% without sacrificing quality (enterprise deployments); Backboard Studio, a coding suite with a desktop IDE and the R-CLI; Nash (hellonash.ai), a multi-model, multi-modal chat app; and the world's #1-ranked AI memory.

About Backboard.io

Backboard.io is an AI infrastructure company that puts the power of advanced AI in the hands of the companies and developers who use it. We build infrastructure that runs under the customer's own control, with security and privacy by design. Our platform helps enterprises and developers deploy advanced AI affordably and securely, without giving up ownership of their data.

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