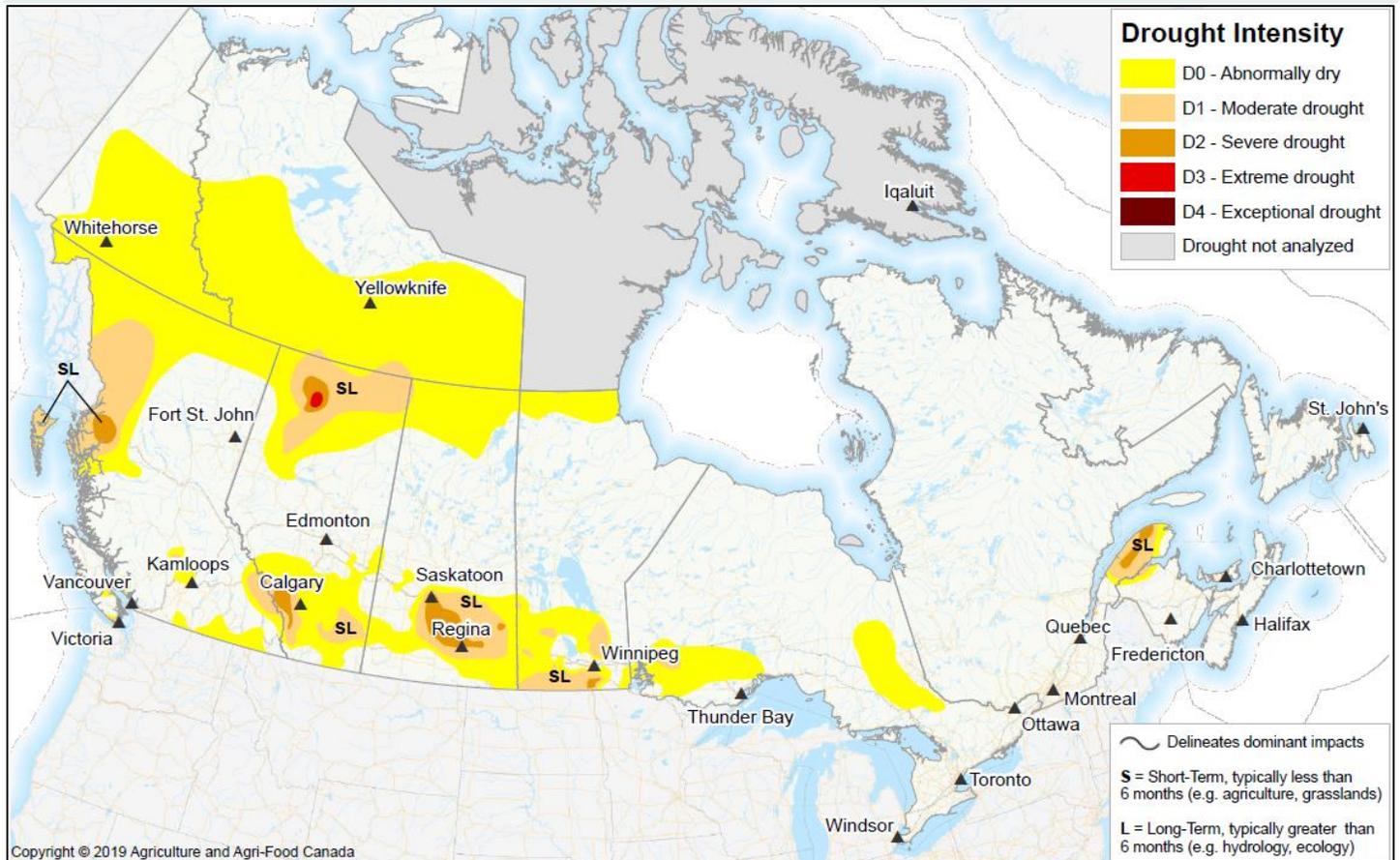


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2019



Drought conditions across most regions in Canada generally improved in January, with the exception of the Prairie Region. Precipitation was variable and temperatures continued to drop as the country settled deeper into winter. Gradual improvements resulted in the removal or shrinking of drought regions, particularly in the northern British Columbia. In the Prairie Region large pockets of drought remained and expanded as a result of continued precipitation deficits. Conditions in Central and Atlantic Canada generally improved due to sufficient precipitation which returned previously dry areas to normal. Northern Canada continued to experience abnormally dry conditions with no known impacts. Although the drought in western Canada is less of a concern at this time, based on the time of year and limited short term impacts, if abnormally dry conditions continue through the winter, spring soil moisture and water supplies will be impacted.



Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions in British Columbia improved as a result of increased precipitation relieving long-term moisture deficits. Seasonal precipitation levels measured by snow pillow accumulation indicated conditions to be average, or above average, for much of the province. Above average snow accumulation in the northern half of the province led to the improvement of Severe Drought (D2) conditions and the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) near Terrace. Conditions along the coast also improved as a result of increased precipitation, and Moderate Drought (D1) remained restricted to two small Pockets where precipitation had been inadequate. The southern regions of the province also continued to benefit from above normal precipitation that helped alleviate drought conditions and recharge soil moisture and streamflow; thus, the Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) pockets in the south decreased in size. Precipitation deficit throughout the winter resulted in the development of a D0 pocket in the central region, including regions that were most impacted by drought during the 2018 growing season.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

An abnormally dry January resulted in persisting drought across the Prairie Region. January precipitation was below 40 percent of normal throughout much of the agricultural region in the Prairies. Severe Drought (D2) developed in southwestern Alberta, as drought indices showed a severe lack of precipitation both short- and long-term. Wet snow in southern Alberta was inadequate to improve long-term drought conditions. Northern Alberta received well below normal precipitation for several months, resulting in Extreme Drought (D3) persisting near High Level and D2 conditions extending south toward Grande Prairie. Much of southern Saskatchewan also received below average precipitation during the month; thus drought conditions endured, with D1 and D2 expanding across the south. Exceptionally low precipitation in southern Manitoba resulted in persisting D1 conditions and to the development of D2 south of Winnipeg. Dugouts and other natural water sources will require increased snowfall and runoff to replenish the resource this winter. Livestock feed shortages continued to challenge producers in the region as a lingering impact of this summer's drought.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Central Canada benefitted from near normal precipitation to above average precipitation throughout January. The Abnormally Dry (D0) area around the short term Moderate Drought (D1) in Northern Ontario decreased in size due to adequate precipitation and healthy streamflow. Most regions in Southern Ontario improved from Abnormally Dry (D0) to normal. While the Gaspé region saw some improvement, the hardest-hit regions continued to experience Severe Drought (D2) conditions.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Atlantic Canada received substantial precipitation throughout January, exceeding the 90th percentile in most regions. Streamflow continued to be above normal across the region. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remained limited to a small region of northern New Brunswick. This region had been experiencing small moisture deficits since the summer with minimal agricultural impacts.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted in Northern Canada throughout January. Satellite-derived data indicated that the southern half of Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories had received less than twenty-five percent of their average precipitation since the start of winter. By the end of the month, streamflow across the region was high, indicating that there have been no hydrological impacts. Moderate Drought (D1) persisted along the southernmost borders of the territories.