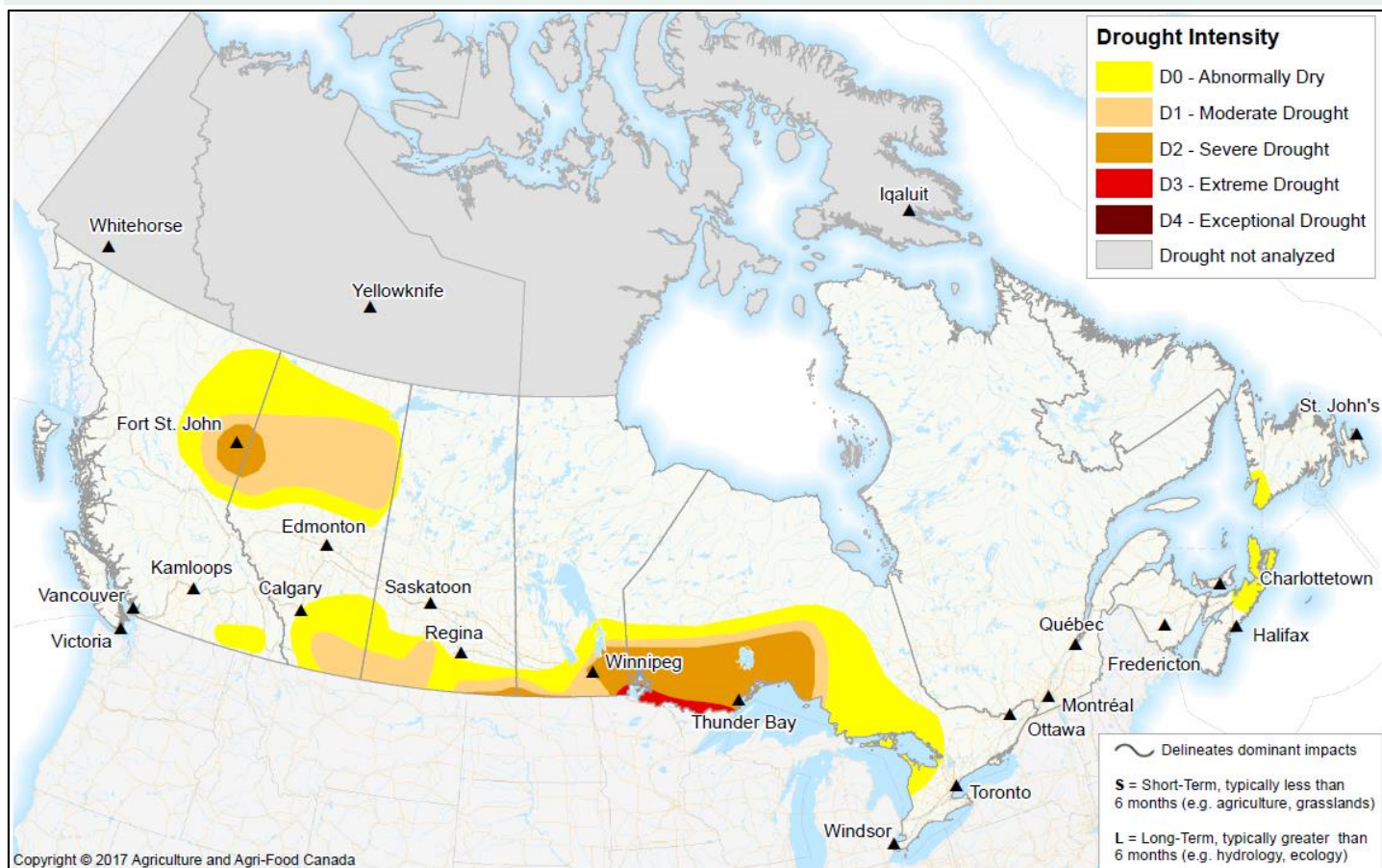


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2007



With the exception of some interior and northeast regions, most of British Columbia (B.C.) received above normal precipitation in January. Conversely, much of the southern prairies, including regions into central Alberta, and parts of northwestern Ontario continued to receive below normal precipitation and warmer than normal temperatures, resulting in low snowpacks and reduced riverflow. For the rest of eastern Canada, winter finally arrived mid-month, bringing with it cooler temperatures and typical winter conditions. By the end of the month, these conditions rapidly faded and resulted in well-above average monthly temperatures. In the Atlantic region, typical winter also persisted, however much of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island received lower than normal snowfall.

## Pacific Region (BC)



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B.C. continued to receive above normal precipitation throughout all regions of the province with the exception of a small region of the southern interior and a very small region in the far northeast around Fort Nelson. Areas of northern B.C. that have been dealing with drought for the past couple years continued to get average to above average precipitation. Snowpack and snow water indices across B.C. were all above normal, ranging from 106% of normal in the Okanagan to greater than 160% of normal along the Pacific coast (record or near record snowpacks for the time of year). Northern regions that experienced significant drought this past year show well above normal snowpacks (120-140%), resulting in increased optimism for the upcoming agricultural season. D0-D2 drought classifications remain in the Peace Region of northern B.C. because of significant water deficits that existed at the time of freeze up. Depending upon precipitation through the rest of the winter and the speed of the spring melt, these conditions are expected to improve significantly in the spring.

## **Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)**

January was drier than normal across most of Alberta, resulting in an expansion of the drought areas in both southern and northern regions. Precipitation in most mountain areas was below normal to normal, while in the remainder of the province it was generally much below normal. Only the Peace region of northwestern Alberta recorded above normal precipitation. Current predictions forecast below average to much below average runoff for southern regions, much above average for central regions, above average for the Peace region and below average to average for northern areas.

Much of Manitoba continued to receive near normal precipitation throughout the month of January, however, it must be noted that the precipitation recorded has also been highly variable throughout the southern regions. Higher than normal precipitation in the west central region over the past couple months has reduced the drought severity in that portion of province but the southern regions of the province remained largely in an abnormally dry or moderate drought condition.

Conditions in Saskatchewan remain relatively unchanged from previous months. Above normal snowfall continues throughout central and northern regions of the province, while below normal precipitation has been received in the south. Central and northern regions received up to 310 % of normal precipitation in January, while areas in the southwest received between 35 and 65% of normal. Conditions in the southeast have improved slightly with above normal precipitation for the third consecutive month. The provincial streamflow forecast for Saskatchewan shows the potential for very high runoff in central portions of the province due to above average winter precipitation, combined with the very wet fall. Below average runoff is currently predicted in much of southern Saskatchewan.

## **Central Region (ON, QC)**

Minimal precipitation throughout much of northwestern Ontario has generated some concern that drought conditions will persist into the spring of 2007. This region recorded between 40 to 65% of normal precipitation in January and continues to be in 10th percentile bracket for fall and winter seasons. Northwestern Ontario was extremely dry over the 2006 growing season and without well above average precipitation over the next couple months, the prospects will not be favorable for the 2007 season. In the South, mild temperatures brought with them sufficient precipitation, with some areas recording around 200% of normal. The monthly average temperatures were two to four degrees C above normal across most of the province.

Quebec and the Atlantic Region of Canada continue to receive adequate precipitation with the exception of southern New Brunswick and southern Newfoundland, and much of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The below normal precipitation in the past few months throughout these areas is a slight concern, however, at this time, we have classified these regions as abnormally dry, and will continue to monitor them in the coming months.