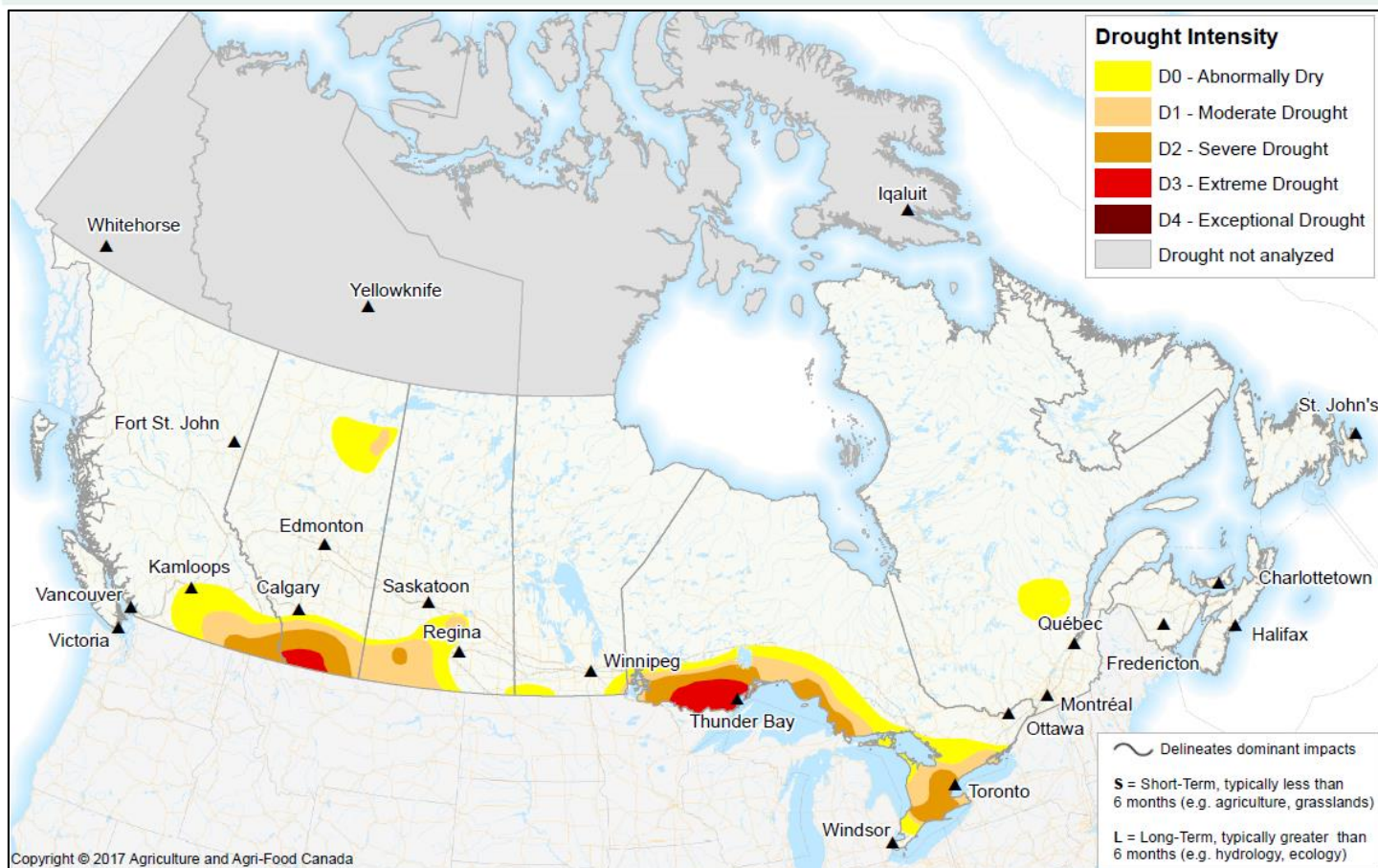


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2007



The southern Prairies, southern British Columbia and portions of Ontario continue to be the areas of significant concern. Small regions in Northern Alberta and in Northern Quebec remain classified as abnormally dry. The Atlantic region has no issues to report at this time.

## Pacific Region (BC)

Most major rivers in the northern and western regions are at, or near, typical seasonal levels. This is not the case for the majority of the southern interior, and southeast where flows in the Thompson, Nicola, Okanagan, Columbia and Kootenay basins are near five-year return periods. For some of the river systems, flows are near 10-20 year return periods. Dry conditions in August, less than 10 mm for much of the south has led to moderate to high fire risk, with some



patches of extreme risk. As a result of low precipitation and low stream flows in the southern regions, D0-D2 classifications have been assigned.

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

For the majority of the province, harvesting is progressing and generally crops are good with average yields. The southwest of the province remains dry, particularly south and west of Lethbridge. In this area, growing season precipitation is between 40-60% of average, contributing to low soil moisture, poor pasture production and decreased yields. As a result, much of the area has been classified as a D0-D3 drought condition depending on severity. In the North, the region around Fort McMurray has been given a D0-D1 assessment due to a high fire risk and low long-term precipitation.

Areas of concern still loom in the southwestern corner of the province where 60–85% of normal rainfall has been reported for the entire growing season. In these areas, pastures are deteriorating and some livestock water shortages have been reported, and thus have been classified as a D0-D2 drought designation

Harvesting is progressing in most of Manitoba, with variable yields and quality resulting from early season uneven rainfall. Despite some recent local thundershowers, pasture re-growth has slowed because of cooler temperatures. Livestock producers are considering supplemental feeding in the southwest. This region has been given a D0 condition as a result.

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

Dry conditions have prevailed throughout much of the growing season for the Northwest and Southern parts of the province. The southern portions of Northwest Ontario have now experienced its third straight year of drought. In the Southern Ontario, spotty showers and lack of precipitation have affected crop yields and quality. Much of this region is still under a Level I (10% voluntary reduction in water use) and Level II (20% voluntary reductions) low water advisory. For these regions, drought classifications range from a D0-D3 depending on location and severity of conditions.

Good growing conditions have been the norm for the majority of Quebec, as yields and qualities are expected to be average or above average for most crops. The dryness in the Lac-St. Jean region, north of Quebec City has eased in the last couple of weeks with significant rain fall. This region has been upgraded to a D0 classification.

## **Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)**

Generally, temperature and precipitation conditions are good across most of Atlantic Canada as tropical storm Chantal dropped more than 160-200mm on parts of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and PEI. At this time, no drought concerns exist in this region.

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