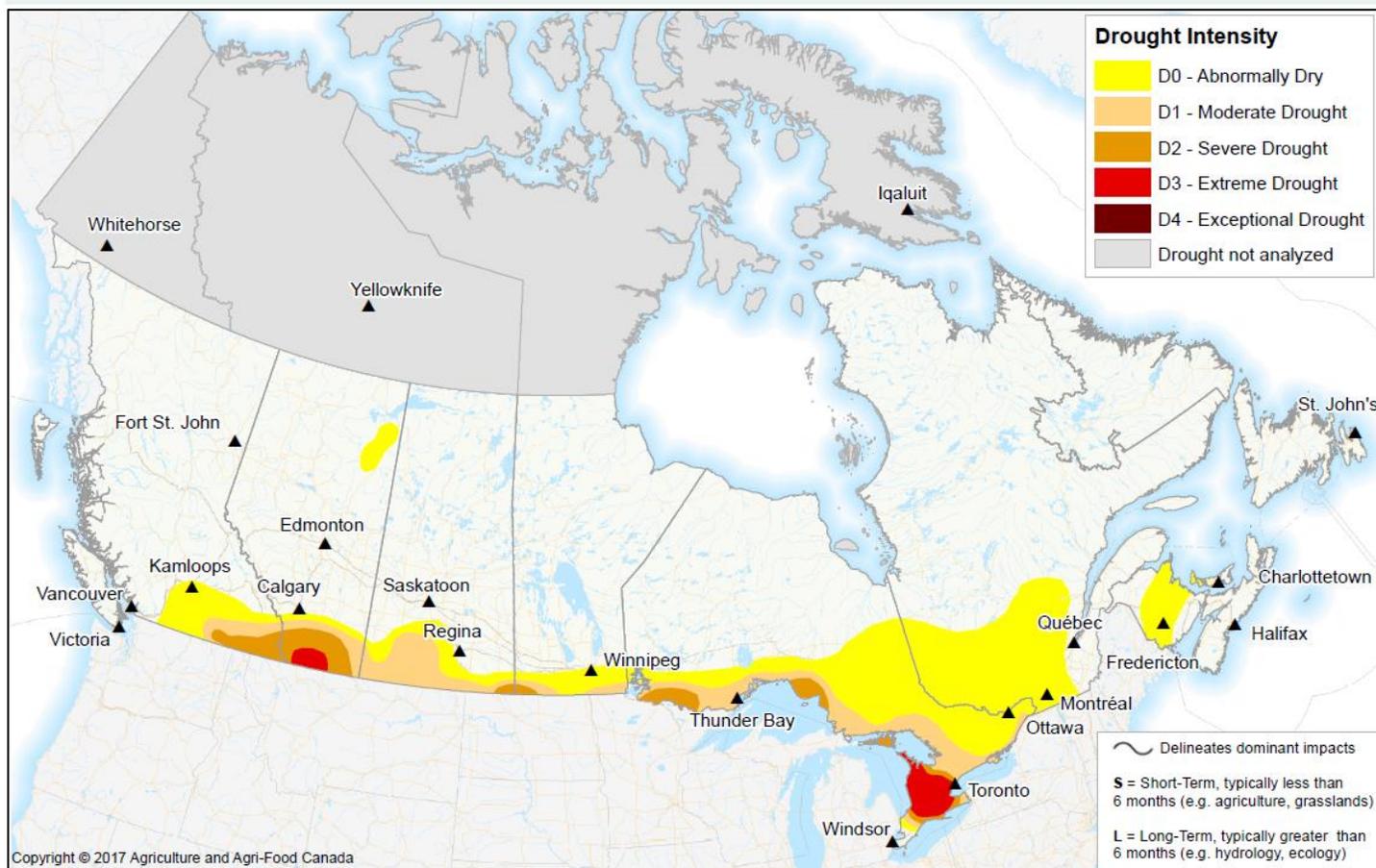


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of September 30, 2007



The southern Prairies, southern British Columbia, and much of Ontario continue to be the areas of greatest concern. Other regions in Northern Alberta, Southern Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have been classified as abnormally dry.

## Pacific Region (BC)

While the majority of the province has received near-normal or above-normal rainfall in last few months, the south central and southeastern parts of British Columbia have recorded only 40-60 percent of normal precipitation since April 1st. Coupled with extremely low snowfall the past winter, this had led to below-normal stream flows for the regions of the Thompson, Nicola, Okanagan, Columbia, and Kootenay basins and eastern sections of the Lower Fraser Valley. Dry



land forage yields are being reported at 50-70 percent of normal. These factors have led us to assign a D0-D3 drought condition to this region.

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

In Alberta, areas of significant concern remain in the south, where only 60-85 percent of normal rainfall has fallen since the start of April. In these areas, soil moisture is very low and pastures have been reported as fair to poor. Conditions have improved slightly in the past 30 days with up to 45 millimeters (1.77 inches) of precipitation in some areas. As a result, the drought severity was reduced; however, much of the area has remained as a D1-D2 because of long-term deficits. A D3 classification remains for a small portion of the southern region. In the north, the region around Fort McMurray continues to be classified as D0 because of below-average long-term precipitation.

For much of the province, pastures are in good to excellent condition and there are no water supply concerns at this time. This is in contrast to the southwest, where 60-85 percent of normal rainfall has been reported for the entire growing season. In this area, sloughs and dugouts are very low, and in some cases, cattle are being brought home to water and feed. As a result, the majority of this region remains in a D1 classification. A slight improvement in conditions has been observed in central portions of the province, resulting in a slightly smaller drought designation this month. Conditions in the southeast corner have deteriorated significantly because of lack of precipitation throughout September, resulting in a change from D0 to D1-D2.

Much of the southern agricultural regions of Manitoba have been classified as abnormally dry because of a lack of September precipitation as well as agricultural difficulties. In this area, pastures have seen limited re-growth and supplemental feeding is taking place. The most extreme conditions are located in the southwest corner of the province, where D1-D2 conditions have developed.

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

Much of Ontario remains in a D0-D3 drought condition because of the lack of precipitation and extreme heat throughout much of the growing season as well as dry conditions at the beginning of the season. In the northwest, the Ministry of Natural Resources has classified the Districts of Wawa and Fort Francis in a confirmed Level 1 Low Water Condition. In these regions, there has been some improvement in the dry conditions, but pasture re-growth is quite variable because of long-term water deficits and the fact that less than 40 percent of normal rainfall has fallen over the last three months in some locations. In southern Ontario, much of the region has reported extremely variable rainfall, with some areas reporting 40-60 percent of normal since April 1st. Flows have been reported at less than 50 percent during September, resulting in classification of Level 1 or Level II Low Water Condition.

Although the majority of Quebec has enjoyed average precipitation with good growing conditions, much of the southwest has not. Although the dryness in the Lac-St. Jean region has eased, various drought indices still place the region under an abnormally dry classification. This also goes for a considerable area south and west, where below-normal precipitation has been reported over the past few months.

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

Generally, in the Atlantic, growing conditions have been good this year and harvest is underway, with average yields and qualities anticipated. However, in portions of New Brunswick and PEI, areas are drier than normal because of variable rainfall, and as a result, water shortages and rationing is taking place. For this reason, the area has been assigned a D0 drought condition.