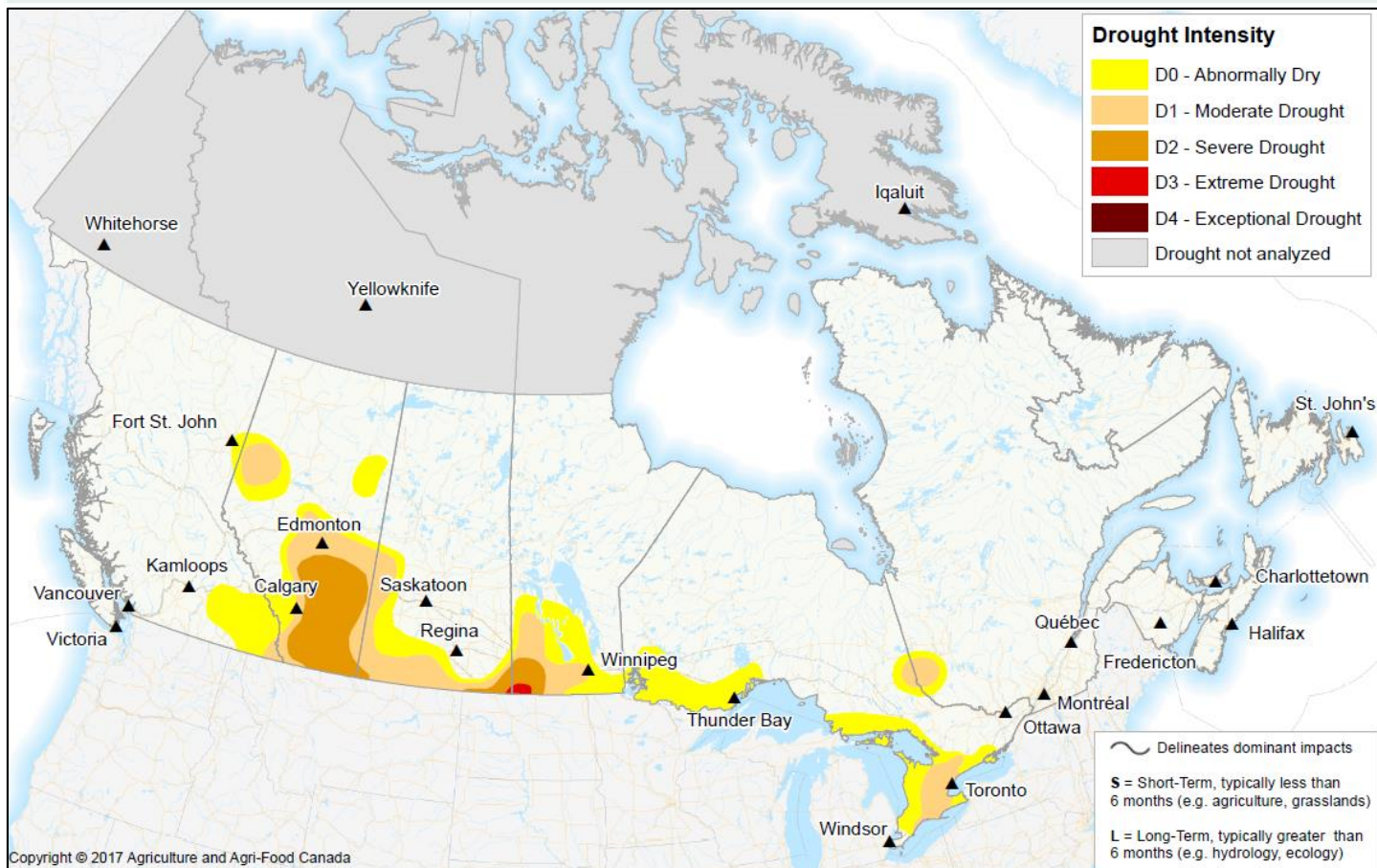


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2008



With the exception of the Prairies, drought conditions continue to improve for the rest of the country. Much of the southern Prairies have received less than 25 mm (1 inch) over the last two months, which has resulted in an expansion of the drought extent and severity in this region. Other parts of Canada received near normal temperatures or above normal precipitation throughout January. An area from northeastern Manitoba eastward to parts of New Brunswick saw temperatures 3-5 degrees C (5-9 degrees F) above normal.

For the second consecutive month, slight improvements were seen throughout much of Ontario, as well as a portion of southern British Columbia. The drought extent and severity was reduced in both cases.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)



Throughout the southern Prairies, drought has increased in severity and extent. For southern and central Alberta and eastern Saskatchewan, spring topsoil conditions still remain a concern due to low precipitation (between 5-15 mm, 0.2-0.6 inches, for January) and below or well below normal snow cover. Above average precipitation will be needed throughout the rest of the winter in order to avoid a large deficit heading into the spring. Although the Peace region of Alberta has received between 20-30 mm (0.8-1.2 inches) of precipitation over the last month, it has been classified as Extremely Low (0-10th percentile) due to the below normal precipitation for the fall period. In Manitoba, the lack of precipitation over the last month, less than 10 mm (0.4 inches), coupled with a below average fall, has warranted at least a D0 drought designation for much of the southern half of the province.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Ontario continues to see significant improvements in the drought areas due to average to above average precipitation over the last few months. Although most regions in southern Ontario have received at least 225 mm (9 inches) over the last 3 months, they still are classified in a drought due to the long term water deficits, low lake levels and low stream flows. As a result of the near normal precipitation, low water conditions have improved for a number of municipalities in this region, and thus, the region has been upgraded to a D0-D1 drought condition. On average, the levels of the Great Lakes rose during the month of January. All of the Great Lakes except Lake Ontario are still below their respective averages. Although the region bordering northeastern Ontario and Quebec has remained in a D1 condition, its extent has significantly decreased. This is in part due to the 50 mm (2 inches) received in the last month.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (2008).

For more information reach us at www.agr.gc.ca or call us toll-free 1-855-773-0241.