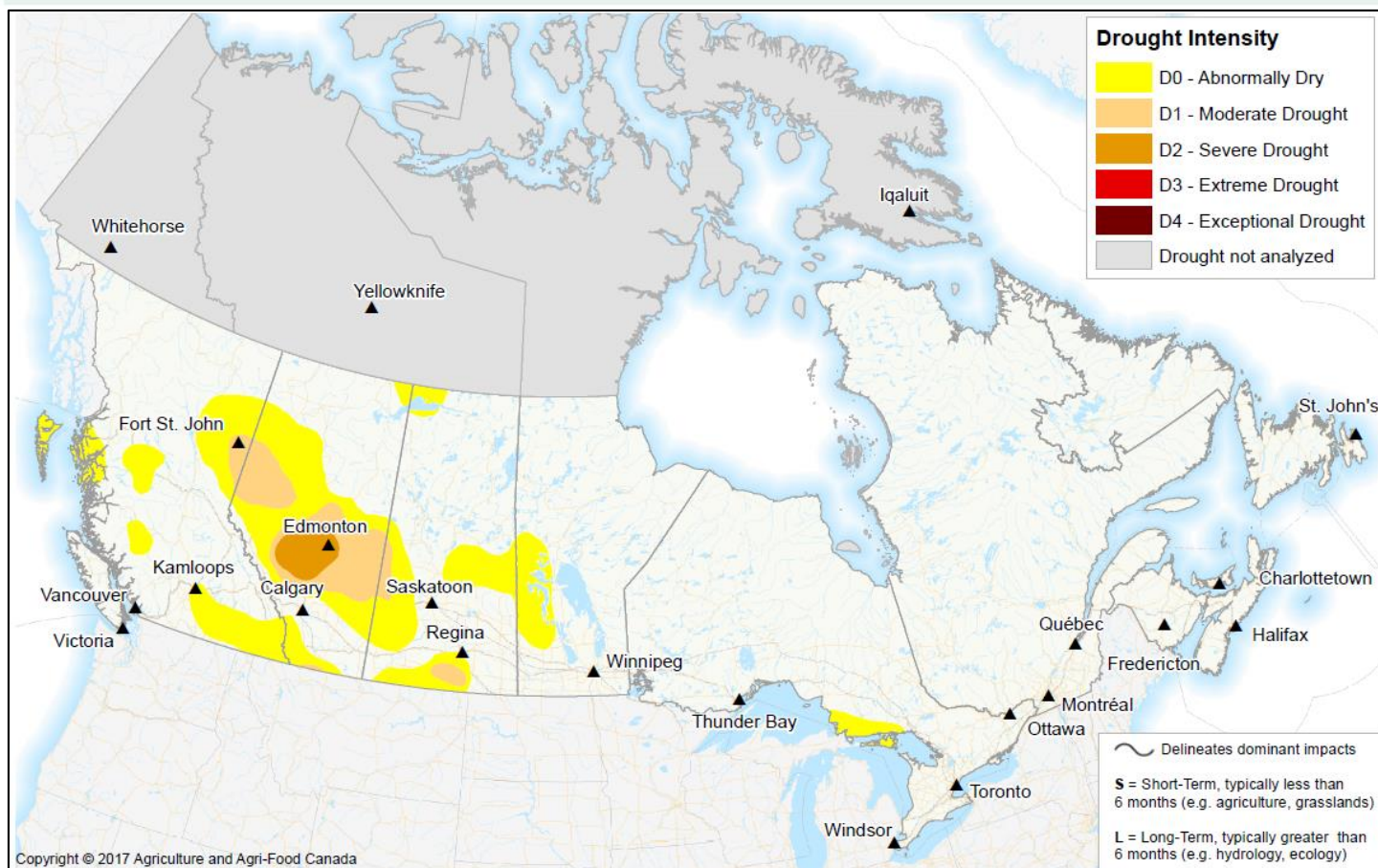


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of November 30, 2008



The Fall period has been warm and dry in many areas across Canada. The warm, dry weather has resulted in poor soil moisture and low water supplies in much of the Prairie Provinces. Significant drought conditions continue to emerge in central Alberta. Southern Saskatchewan remains dry with very poor water supplies. Above normal precipitation will be needed to ensure water supplies are restored next spring. Northern British Columbia and Alberta continue to improve slightly due to near normal precipitation.

## Pacific Region (BC)

The British Columbia coastal region received below normal precipitation for the Fall period, especially in central coastal regions. Queen Charlotte Islands and adjacent western coastal



areas received 60-85% of normal over the last 3-6 months; up to 370 mm below normal. Areas in the lower mainland (Vancouver) and southern portions of Vancouver Island received near normal precipitation which improved moisture conditions. Due to mild temperatures, mountain snowpacks are relatively low for the end of November. Soil moisture and water supplies improved throughout B.C.'s central interior in November due to near normal precipitation. Precipitation for the Fall period, however, continued to be below average in the central interior despite a couple of significant precipitation events in November. Temperatures throughout the interior were also mild and snow that fell melted in most regions. Most of the smaller and less permanent wetlands continued to be at low levels. In the southern interior, Fall conditions were mixed. The Kamloops area and the Thompson water basin improved significantly due to above average precipitation, however, dry conditions persisted in the south including the Okanagan Valley. Temperatures were mild throughout November, and mountain snowpacks were well below normal. Precipitation continued to be very low in the south-east interior. This region continues to be classified as Abnormally Dry (D0). The north-central area, west of Williams Lake, has shown little improvement, and has remained 40-60% of normal throughout the past month. In the Peace region (Northeastern BC), the Fall and early Winter period was mild with below normal precipitation. November precipitation however was significantly above normal in some areas of the Peace. Fort St. John and areas further north received precipitation in excess of 200 percent above normal; improving their drought situation. The classification of this region has been upgraded to a D1 (Moderate Drought) and D0 (Abnormally Dry). The D2 classification was removed from this region in part due to the time of year and reduced impacts of drought during the winter months. The region also saw some recovery in streamflow and soil moisture, however significant Winter snow and a rapid Spring melt will be required to improve soil moisture and bring wetlands back to normal conditions.

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

Dry, warm conditions persisted throughout most agricultural regions of Alberta in November. Temperatures over much of the province were 5 degrees Celsius higher than normal. Central Alberta, south of Edmonton and stretching over to the Saskatchewan border, continued to have the largest precipitation deficits; receiving below 40% of normal precipitation since September 1. Some individual stations in this region are reporting below 10% normal Fall and early Winter precipitation. Soil moisture and water supplies are extremely low. Consequently, the area previously classified as a D2 (Severe Drought) was enlarged. The Peace region of northern Alberta improved slightly (mostly in the northern regions of the Peace region) in the past few months receiving near normal precipitation. The southwest also saw a very dry month with the Pincher Creek area receiving less than 40 percent of normal in November and has slipped to 60-85 percent of normal for the six month period.

Conditions throughout southern Saskatchewan remain unseasonably warm and dry with below normal precipitation throughout the month of November. Temperatures over much of the province were 5 degrees Celsius above normal. Three month (90 day) precipitation for this region remains near average, however, water supplies are at extremely low levels. Cattle

producers have been hauling water over the past 3-4 months since on-farm supplies are not adequate. As a result, a small D1 (Moderate Drought) designation has been applied to the most severely impacted regions. The larger D0 (Abnormally Dry) region throughout southern Saskatchewan highlights the regions with both low precipitation, poor soil moisture and lack of water supplies. This region is facing significant drought impacts if substantial snow is not received this winter. Western regions of the province received very little precipitation throughout the month as well. This region spans from Lloydminster to Rosetown, an area which received under 40 percent of normal for November, however, the 3-6 month precipitation is near normal. Fall rains across the north-central part of the province have improved conditions which helped recharge soil moisture prior to freeze up. November precipitation was slightly below normal however there were no big concerns about drought in this region at the beginning of December. A D0 (Abnormally Dry) classification remains on the map in the north-east agricultural zone of the province. The Prince Albert - Hudson Bay area has shown little improvement over November; continuing to be below 70 percent of normal for the Fall period. The Yorkton area became drier throughout the month, which stretched the D0 (Abnormally Dry) area south.

In Manitoba, conditions remained relatively unchanged from the previous assessment. Dry conditions continued throughout west-central regions of the province with wet conditions persisting in eastern regions. Western regions of the province continue to deteriorate with monthly precipitation values being around 40-60 percent of normal. North-western areas of Flin-Flon in the Pas have shown improvement over November, but are still well below normal for the 3 month period. Low precipitation levels in November were also recorded throughout the south-western portions of the province with some regions receiving less than 40 percent of normal for precipitation in November. This region will need to be monitored closely over the next number of months, however, as of the end of November, this region was not considered to be in a situation to be classified as abnormally dry.

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

Moisture conditions across southern Ontario were generally good at freeze-up and water supplies continue to be at or near full supply. Despite precipitation amounts being below normal in October for most of southern Ontario, November precipitation more than made up for the deficits. The 3 month (90 day) precipitation totals are near normal across the entire southern region. Many parts of north-western Ontario continued to receive below normal precipitation, however, November precipitation was near normal or even above normal in some regions. The only region of concern at this time is the Sault Ste. Marie, Manitoulin and Sudbury.

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

Regions east of Ontario have received adequate precipitation and maintain normal or above normal water supplies and therefore have no drought concerns. Rain events in Atlantic Canada have been frequent with above normal amounts for this time of year.

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