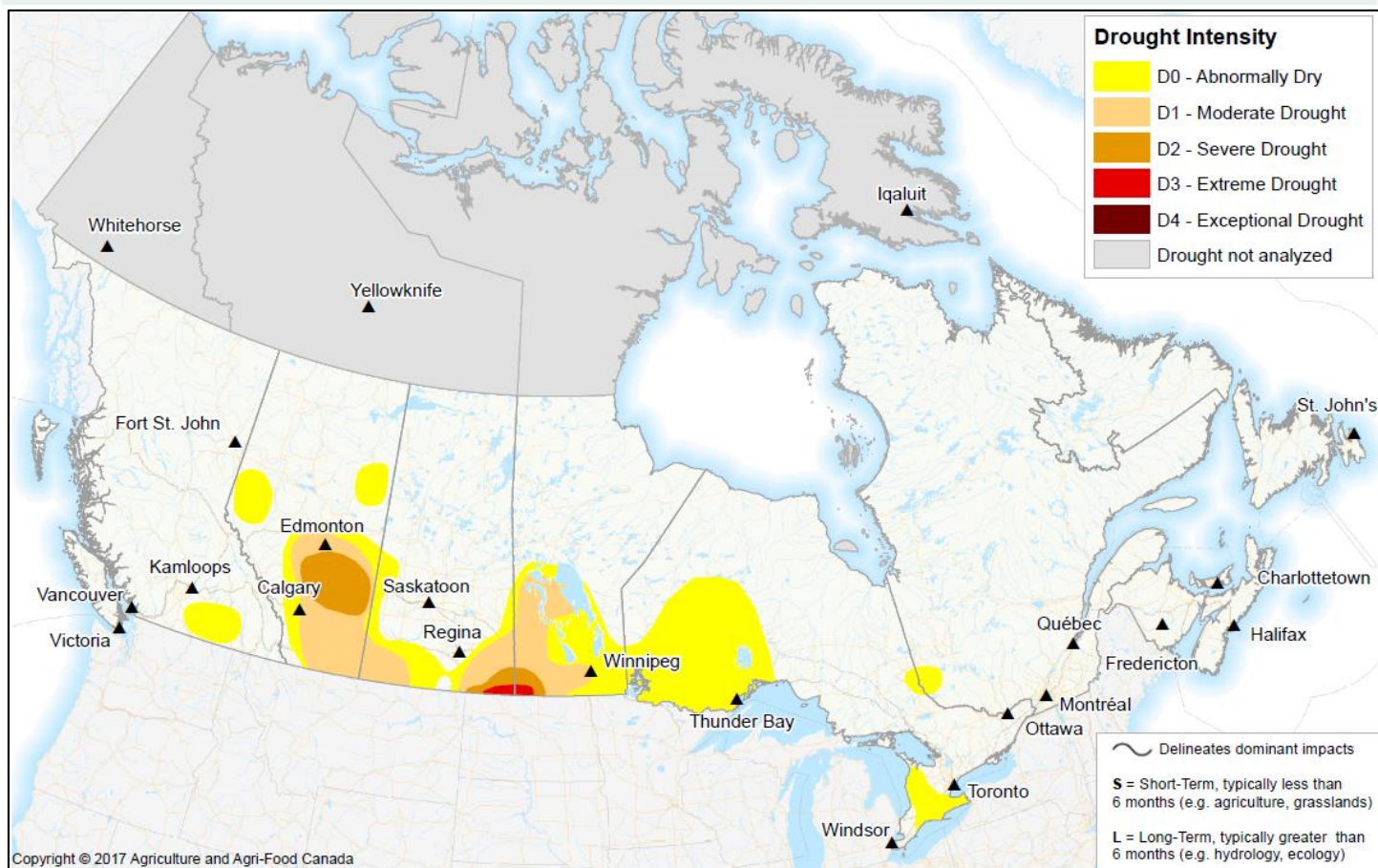


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 29, 2008



Drought conditions continued to improve in Eastern Canada; however, conditions in western Canada remained largely unchanged. Slight improvements took place throughout southeastern British Columbia, and into southern Alberta and the northern Peace River region due to above-normal precipitation over the last month. With above-average precipitation, southern Ontario continues to recover from last summer's drought. Drought areas in southern regions of Alberta improved slightly and were upgraded from D2 (severe drought) to D1 (moderate drought). Spring topsoil conditions still remain a concern in southern regions of western Canada due to low precipitation and below- or well-below-normal snow cover.

Southern Ontario continues to see significant improvements due to the heavy snowfalls throughout much of the region over the past few months. In fact, much of southern Ontario has received record or near-record precipitation this winter. As a result, the region has been



upgraded to a D0 (abnormally dry) classification to represent an area recovering from drought. The region bordering northeastern Ontario and Quebec has remained in a D0 (abnormally dry) condition, although its extent and severity has significantly decreased due to more than 200 mm of precipitation received over the last 3 months. Southern portions of northwestern Ontario remain abnormally dry. The D0 (abnormally dry) classification has been expanded north in this region to reflect below-normal snow accumulations.

Much of the drought classification in western Canada has remained relatively unchanged from the last report; however, there have been small improvements in northwestern Alberta, southern Alberta, south-central Saskatchewan, and southeast British Columbia. A portion of southeastern Saskatchewan and much of southern Manitoba continue to be particularly dry, with less than 10 mm falling during the month. This drought area has expanded slightly in this month's assessment. As we move closer to the spring, concerns of drought conditions are increasing. The lack of winter precipitation throughout the southern prairies during the winter, following a fairly dry fall and summer period, will result in extremely poor conditions to start off the growing season if significant precipitation is not received in the next few months. Water supplies going into the winter, in southern regions, were very low and without abundant snow cover and significant runoff these water sources will not be recharged.