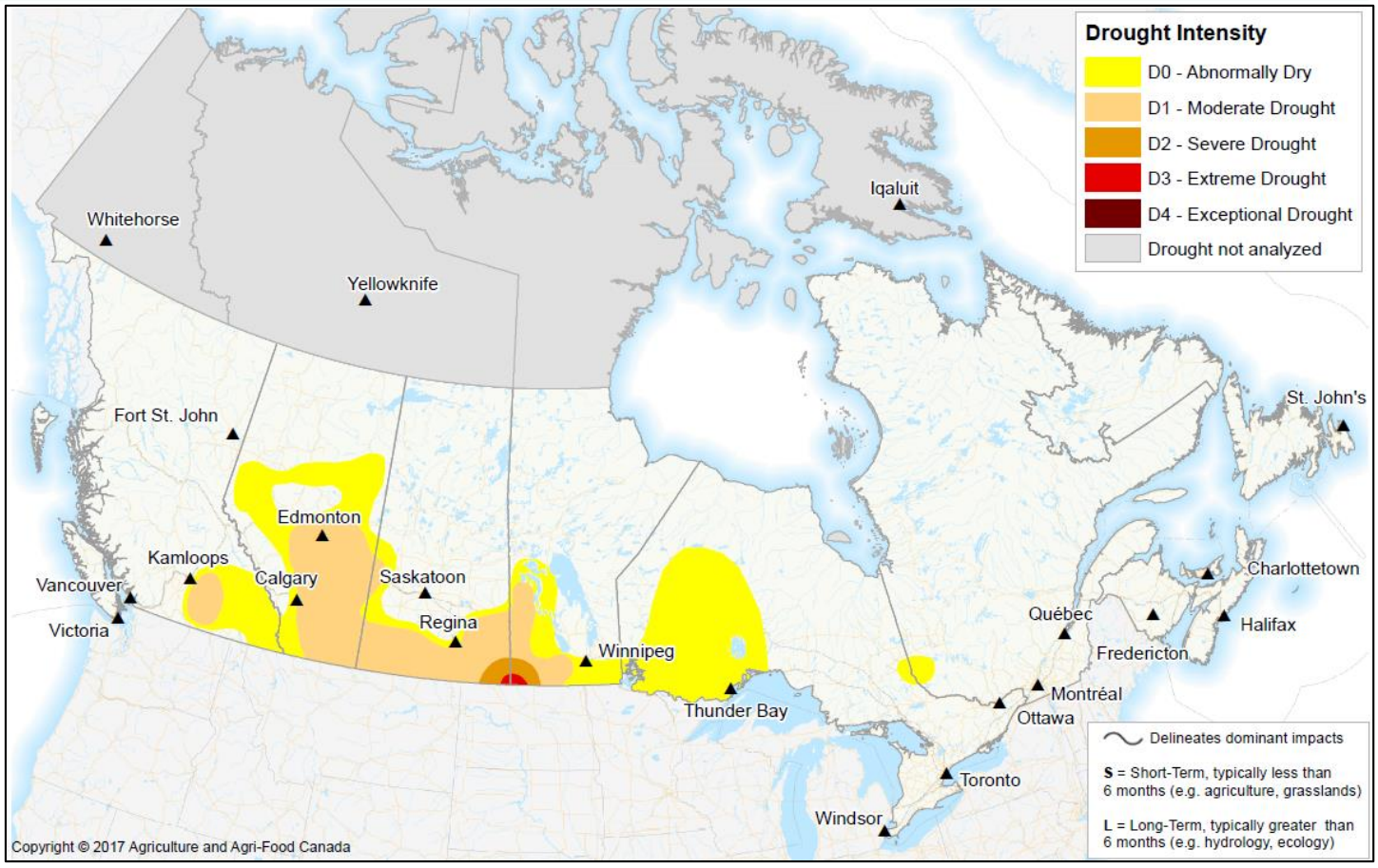
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2008



Drought conditions throughout much of Canada remained relatively unchanged since the last report. Near-record winter snowfall throughout southern Ontario has resulted in vastly improved water supplies and moisture conditions. As a result, the remaining D0 (abnormally dry) classification has been removed from this region. On the other hand, much of western Canada has received well-below-normal precipitation during the winter season and remains in a D1-D2 (moderate to severe drought) classification. Slight improvements were made in western Manitoba; however, the southern interior of British Columbia has degraded and slipped back into a D1 (moderate drought) classification. Cool early-spring weather resulted in a very slow-melting snow pack over much of the West, which has significantly limited runoff. This has resulted in very limited recharge of agricultural water supplies in both dugouts and reservoirs in the prairie region.

Pacific Region (BC)

Much of British Columbia produced near normal snow packs during the 2007/08 winter. Basin snow water indices range from 90% of normal in the interior, to near 125% of normal along the coast and in the Peace River basin. As a result, the British Columbia River Forecast Centre is forecasting near-normal spring runoff in most river basins. The snow conditions provide a very positive outlook for water-supply conditions for most of the province, with respect to community water supply, stream flows, and groundwater and aquifer recharge. Snow conditions in the southern interior basins improved following heavy snow fall during March; however, this region continues to experience below-normal snow packs, and diminished spring runoff is forecasted. This region has potential to develop water-supply challenges during the summer. As a result of a dry fall period, below normal snow pack, and low water flows, the southeastern region of the province has been classified as D0-D1 (abnormal dryness or moderate drought).

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Winter precipitation has generally been below normal for much of the southern prairies, including the majority of the agricultural area. Small pockets of near-normal precipitation occurred in west-central and northern Saskatchewan and central Manitoba agricultural areas. In general, northern regions had average to above-average winter precipitation. This, combined with a wet fall, especially in Saskatchewan, created the potential for high spring runoff. The area of greatest concern remains southern and central regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and southwest Manitoba, where winter precipitation has been far below normal. Winter period precipitation percent of normal values in these areas include: Calgary 76%, Brooks 30%, Medicine Hat 77%, Swift Current 65%, Coronach 59%, Kindersley 61%, Outlook 55%, Saskatoon 55%, Val Marie 20%, Maple Creek 52%, Assiniboia 40%, Melita 40%, and Morden 50%. Well- below-normal winter snow combined with dry soil moisture conditions across the south at freeze up and reduced snow pack due to early January thawing temperatures has resulted in a very low runoff and a real concern for water supplies for the upcoming growing season. It is anticipated that the near-normal snow pack in the Rockies will supply adequate water to southern Alberta reservoirs; however, dugouts and other surface water supplies throughout the southern prairies will not recover. Overall runoff in the region not feed by mountain stream flow has been marginal and reservoirs and dugouts are at low levels. Water supply shortages are a major concern at this time. As a result of these conditions, few modifications have been made to the map from previous months. The D1 (moderate drought) in southwest Saskatchewan has been expanded slightly north and to the east. The D1 (moderate drought) in southwest Manitoba was reduced slightly. In Alberta there has been significantly lower than normal snow accumulations; however, the winter period is also the dry season and this area can recover quickly as a result of a few spring storm events. As a result, the D2 (severe drought) in central Alberta was removed. This region will be closely monitored

in upcoming months; if precipitation is not received and conditions do not improve this area will quickly slip back into a D2 (severe drought) classification.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Large winter storms continually dumped snow throughout much of central Canada during March. An intense storm event passed through the region on March 7-10, dumping large amounts of snow and paralyzing travel throughout the region. Roofs collapsing under the weight of snow have killed four people in Quebec, destroyed homes, and forced sometimes-numerous school and business evacuations. Ottawa recorded over 50 centimeters of heavy, wet snow, while southern regions received between 25-35 centimeters. Many portions of Ontario, including Ottawa, are nearing record annual snowfall, with snow still likely to come in April. As of the end of March, Quebec City had already set a new record of 460 centimeters. As spring approaches, concern for flooding has replaced any concern for drought in the region.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

At this time there are no concerns for drought in Atlantic Canada. Some regions have received below-normal precipitation for the winter period, including northern Nova Scotia, portions of Prince Edward Island, and southern portions of the island of Newfoundland. However, at this time there are no impacts of low winter precipitation.