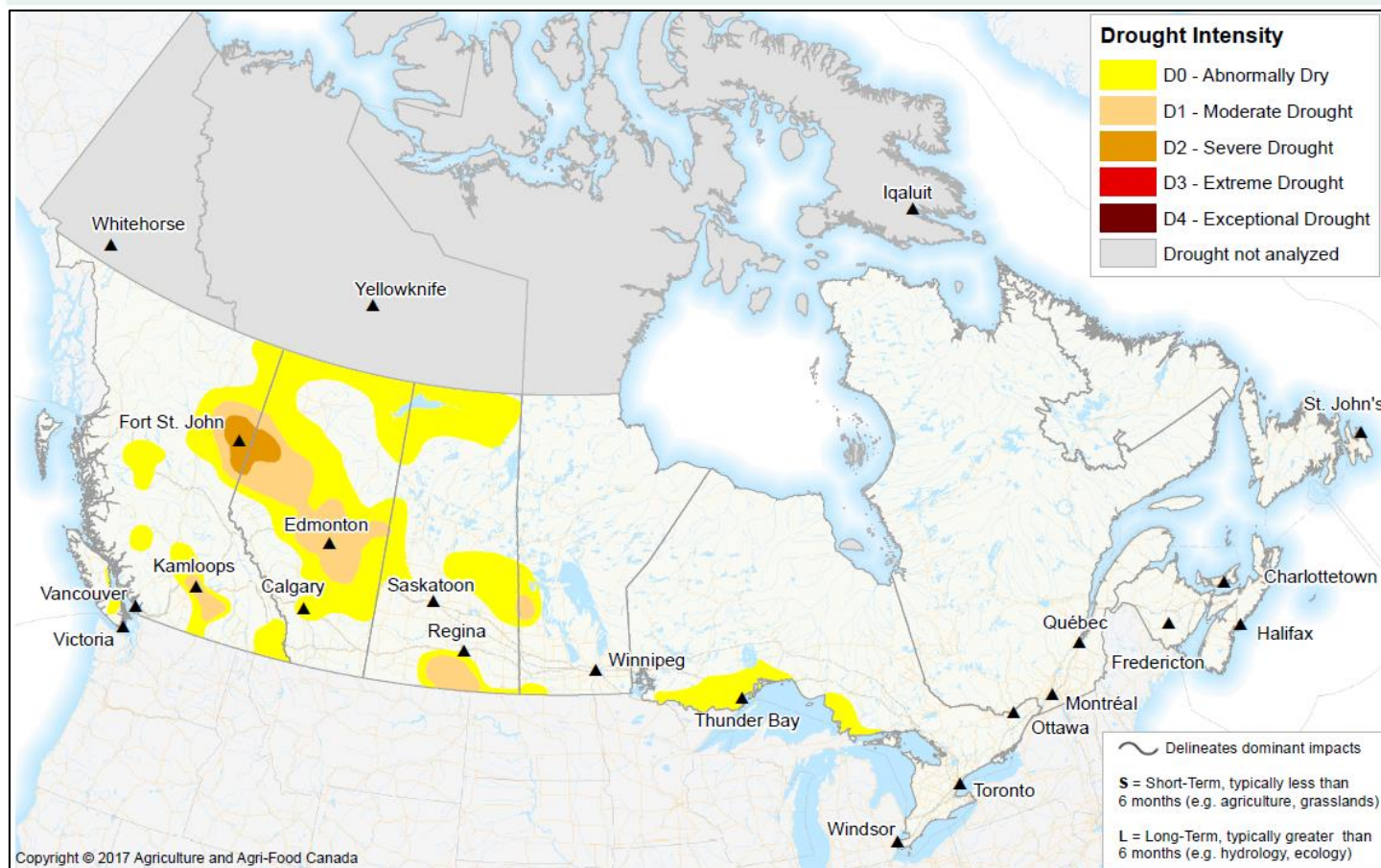


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of September 30, 2008



Drought concerns persist throughout northern Alberta, northern British Columbia and southern Saskatchewan. Forage and water supplies are low throughout these regions forcing producers to haul forage and water in order to be adequately prepared for the winter season. Dry regions of southern British Columbia have remained relatively unchanged from the previous assessment. Dry conditions continue to expand in northwest Ontario with 2-3 consecutive months of below normal precipitation. For the most part, regions east of Ontario continue to receive near normal precipitation with some minor exceptions.

Pacific Region (BC)

The southern interior of British Columbia (near Kamloops) remains dry, having received between 60-85 percent normal precipitation over the past 12 months. Rainfall throughout the

past month has resulted in some improvement in soil moisture throughout the region. This precipitation has resulted in the removal of the D2 classification from this region. However, the area classified as a D0 (Abnormally Dry) or D1 (Moderate Drought) have expanded north west due to dry conditions throughout the previous few months. Seven-day average streamflow remains at 50-80 percent of normal median streamflow for many rivers in this region. Some small improvements occurred in the Kootenay region with near normal precipitation throughout September. This improvement has resulted in the removal of the D1 (Moderate Drought) classification from this region.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Dry conditions endure throughout the Peace River region of northern Alberta and British Columbia, with the region receiving less than 24 mm (1 inch) of rain representing 40-60 percent of normal monthly precipitation. The north eastern portions of the Peace River district received more precipitation than the western regions resulting in some small improvements. For a large area of the Peace River region the growing season precipitation (April 1 to September 30) is rated at 40-60 percent of normal with seasonal deficits of greater than 100mm. The dry conditions have affected crop development, and pasture growth throughout the growing season. Yields are significantly down on both annual crops and forages. Water and forage shortages are occurring and producers have been forced to haul water and purchase feed, or alternatively, significantly reduce their herds. Going into the winter season water and feed shortages throughout these regions are a significant concern.

Dry conditions persist over a large portion of central Alberta. Areas south of Edmonton continue to experience drought severity at a 1 in 12 year rate. These conditions have largely remained unchanged for the last 9 months, with some regions receiving 60-85 percent of normal precipitation resulting in a 9 month departure from normals of between 80-160mm (3.15-6.3 inches). At this time, areas between Grande Prairie and Edmonton have the highest deficit of up to 160mm (6.3 inches). Low precipitation has resulted in forage shortages, anticipated water shortages and some crop stress. Soil moisture throughout this region is very low at this time.

Much of the northern regions of Alberta and Saskatchewan continue to see very dry conditions which have resulted in an increase of fire danger. This region has been classified as abnormally dry (D0) as a result.

Near normal September rains in south central regions of Saskatchewan and well above normal precipitation in southeast Saskatchewan have improved soil moisture significantly. As such, the D2 (Severe Drought) classification has been reduced to a D1 (Moderate Drought) classification. Water shortages continue to be widespread throughout the southern regions of Saskatchewan. Effects from a dry fall and winter in 2007 and very low runoff in spring are still being experienced. Forage throughout this region is in very short supply due to these conditions over the past few years. Cattle producers in this region have been forced to haul water and forage

and reduce their herds throughout the year. The one-year precipitation deficit to October 1, 2008 in much of this region is greater than 80mm. Southeast portionsA southeast portion of Saskatchewan continues to improve. Significant rainfall, greater than 150% of normal monthly precipitation (up to 80 mm), throughout the past month in this region has resulted in the majority of this region being removed from the drought classification. Southwest Manitoba continues to be classified in an Abnormally Dry (D1) condition, although having improved significantly from earlier in the year.

Dry conditions in central regions of eastern Saskatchewan and Western Manitoba have continued to worsen over the past couple months, which has resulted in a D0 (abnormally Dry) and D1 (Moderate Drought) classification for this region. Three month departure from normal precipitation is close to 60mm (2.5 inches) for much of the region (+ or – departure?). Growing season (April 1 –September 30) precipitation is near 60 percent of average with some regions being within the 10th percentile.

Central Region (ON, QC)

September precipitation was near normal or slightly below normal throughout much of the southern portion of northwest Ontario. Areas that have been classified in the abnormally dry (D0) category include portions of NW Ontario, in the Thunder Bay region. The region bordering Ontario and Quebec along the US border received well below normal precipitation in September. At this time, the region's conditions do not warrant a drought classification. This region will be closely monitored and if conditions continue this region will be classified in the D0-D1 range during the next assessment.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Wetter than normal conditions persist throughout much of Atlantic Canada; remnants of hurricanes passing over the area earlier in September brought very high rainfall amounts to most regions. Southwest Nova Scotia and southwest New Brunswick continue to have below normal rainfall for the growing season (60-85 percent of normal); however there is no concern at this time.