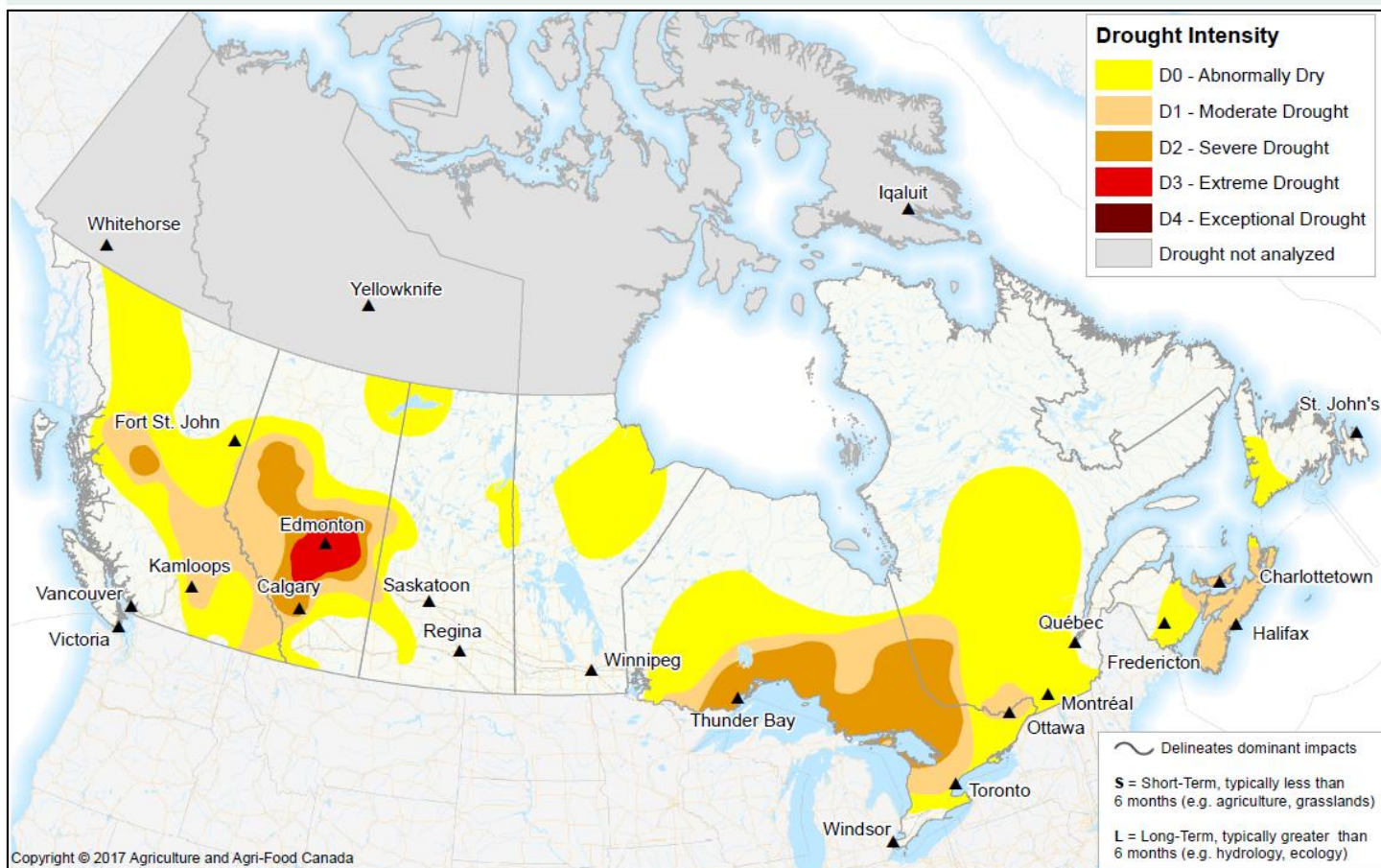


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2010



May precipitation was greater than normal across most of western Canada whereas Eastern regions received significantly below normal precipitation. Most of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and eastern Alberta received more than twice the normal amount of precipitation; areas that normally receive 20-30mm received 50-70mm. As a result the prairie region has recorded its wettest year on record with a departure from normal of close to 70%. Conversely, Ontario and Quebec have recorded their second driest springs on record with a departure from normal of close to 35% below normal. Although drought concerns for this region have decreased substantially, much of this area is still suffering from the lingering effects of previous years of drought. In eastern Canada, drought is emerging as a possible concern, with many areas have reported below normal precipitation. Southern Ontario and Newfoundland are the exception to this reporting above normal precipitation in both regions. Much of British Columbia's southern



interior received normal to slightly above normal precipitation, alleviating some of the anticipated concerns regarding the low snow pack in those areas.

As of May 31, there was no significant change in the aerial extent of dryness across the country (excluding Arctic regions above 60°N). The statistics still indicated that 40% or more of Canada is designated in a D0 or a drought classification. When compared to the extent of agricultural land, the percentage of area in the same classifications dropped from 62% to approximately 56% this month.

The drought region of eastern Canada continues to expand with well above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the month of May. Southern Ontario's conditions improved with recent precipitation shifting the D0 boundary northward towards London and the D2 boundary north to the southern portion of the Georgian Bay. However, there was an increase of the D2 boundary northward into the Lac St. Jean region of Quebec. The D0 boundary has also extended eastward from Ottawa to northern most point of the St. Lawrence River. Northern Ontario continued with abnormally high temperatures, expanding the D2 zone around Lake Superior now merging with the zone around Georgian Bay. Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which were previously in a D0, are now in a D1, and there was an expansion of the D0 to include a portion of New Brunswick.

Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation throughout eastern Canada has resulted in increased forest fires in northern Ontario, and Quebec. Much of this region received less than 40 percent of the average rainfall with only a few areas reaching 85 percent in the winter and early spring; with the long term trend in which this region received less than 60 percent of their average precipitation last September. The combined lack of moisture and the record heat throughout the month of May has led to low water advisories, and water and fire bans in many areas of eastern Canada. Residents in some municipalities have been told not to water their lawns or wash their cars as concerns for ground water levels in the area are mounting. The producers in the Valley East area do not have irrigation and are now at a critical stage where moisture is needed for crop production to occur. In southern Ontario, record breaking heat in the Ottawa region has rapidly dried everything up, resulting in an increase of wildfires. This has meant an emergence of a small D1 zone around Ottawa. Abnormally dry conditions and Thunderstorms in Quebec have been the driving force behind the recent fires there. The final few days in May brought some relief to northern Quebec as systems moved through the area reducing the fire risk. PEI, Nova Scotia, and parts of New Brunswick have had a drier than normal spring season so far; they remain abnormally dry resulting in the expansion of the D0 and increasing to D1 throughout Nova Scotia. Water levels across the Great Lakes and especially the St. Lawrence in Quebec are alarmingly low. Water supplies to the Lake Superior basin in May broke record lows, the second consecutive month they did so. The St. Lawrence at Montreal was 180cm below its average (1967-2009) for May.

The April-May period has been exceptionally wet across the Prairies so far, with many regions reporting record levels of precipitation. Based on the recent precipitation throughout the Prairies and British Columbia, several drought intensity boundaries have retracted. Although

many regions reported record precipitation during the month, hay and pasture lands in central and northern Alberta are still recovering from prolonged drought stress, sub-surface soil moisture is low and producers are still dealing with inadequate surface water supplies for their livestock. Long term precipitation indicators still show significant deficits. These concerns are severe enough to warrant a D3 and a D2 in these regions. The drought boundaries in Saskatchewan shifted westward towards the Alberta border, and a small D0 zone extends from the Swift Current region northwest into Alberta. Conditions have been more favorable in the southern interior of British Columbia, reducing the D1 region south of Kamloops and Kelowna. The D2 region in the south east has also been reduced accordingly.

Many reservoirs have been replenished, and soil moisture is good, ahead of spring seeding. Thanks to the storms and consistent rain, the D3 and D2 areas were reduced across central Alberta. However, the D3 in Alberta was largely missed during the storm events, receiving only about 10-20 mm (about 0.5-1.0 in.). It is important to note that even with the increased moisture throughout the most severe drought areas in the West, there is little carry over from last years pasture's and water supplies are significantly reduced in some regions.

Conditions in British Columbia's southern interior have improved with precipitation through the last week in May, particularly in the Okanagan and the Kootenays. This moisture reduced the previous D2 and D1 intensities to D1 and D0 respectively, as dry conditions still remain. The D1 region has extended from Alberta into the central Cariboo as fire risk has increased and dry conditions have continued through May.