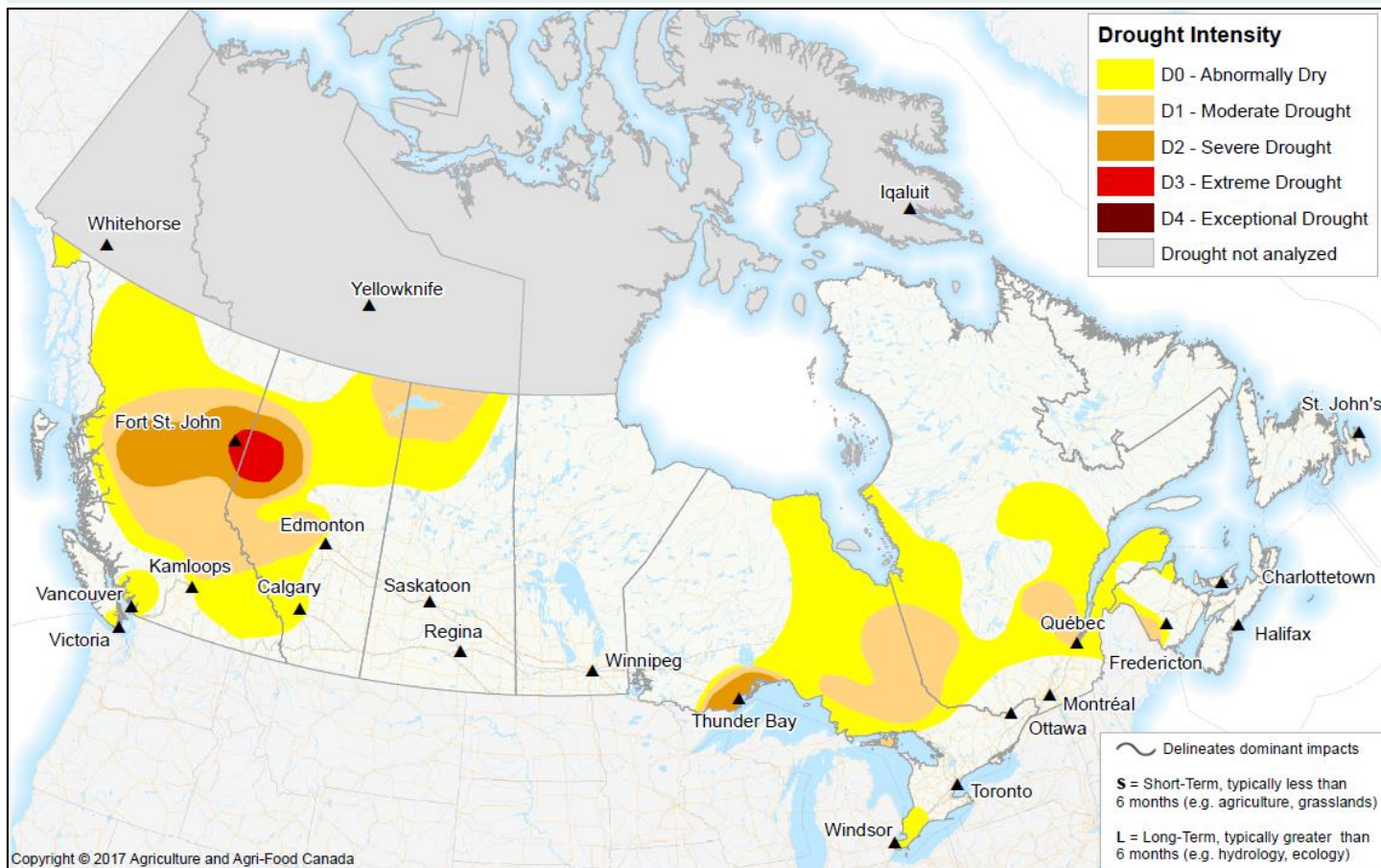


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2010



Concerns over the impacts of drought in northern British Columbia and Alberta grew through August reflecting the duration of dry conditions and high temperatures in many regions. Concerns also remained throughout eastern Quebec's Saguenay-Lac St. Jean and Abitibi regions. These regions continued to receive below normal precipitation during August creating concerns over crop yields. The dry conditions extended from Quebec into New Brunswick as well. North-western Ontario showed significant signs of improvement resulting in much of the D0 (abnormally dry) boundary being erased, however the Thunder Bay region continues to receive below normal rainfall.

## Pacific Region (BC)



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Hot and dry conditions continued into August for much of British Columbia. The high temperatures combined with drier than normal conditions increased the fire risk throughout the province. Restrictions on open fires in all regions of the province continued as there were significant outbreaks of intense fire activity in the central interior for the first three weeks of the month. Showers and cooler temperatures moved into northern British Columbia on August 23, which relieved some of the fire concerns and reduced the fire danger rating from extreme to moderate. Even with the precipitation, fires continue to remain a concern in the Cariboo and southern Skeena regions; however some open fire bans have been lifted in the northern regions of the province. By month end the central interior, lower mainland, and the Kootenay region improved to near normal precipitation levels. However the Peace, Skeena, and Okanagan regions ranged from 85 percent to less than 40 percent of normal for August. Many rivers in these regions have been below 20 year low flow levels, and near historic low flows through July and August.

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

The Alberta and British Columbia Peace Region continued to be dry through August receiving less than 60 percent of average precipitation. Since September 1, 2009 most of the region has received less than 85 percent of the normal precipitation with some areas receiving less than 60 percent. Much of the region has a moisture deficit of 160-200 mm (6.3-7.9 in.) below normal since September 1, 2009. The long duration of drought, 4 consecutive years, within the region has warranted a D3 (extreme drought) designation largely in the Alberta Peace Region but also crossing into British Columbia near Dawson Creek. The D2 (severe drought) in the Peace Region has expanded slightly north but more significantly westward through the Peace and Skeena Regions of northwest British Columbia encompassing the town of Smithers. The D1 (moderate drought) boundary in Alberta and British Columbia has also been expanded slightly northward. The drought conditions led to the expectations of crop yields to be down significantly from average. The Subsoil moisture in the Peace River Region is rated at 76 percent poor, 14 percent, 8 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Pasture and hay rate similarly to soil conditions at 77 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 5 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. The second cut of hay was only 1 percent complete near month end. There were no concerns for drought in Manitoba or southern Saskatchewan. However the D1 (moderate drought) area in northern Saskatchewan expanded further around Lake Athabasca where dry conditions have increased the number of forest fires this season. As of September 1, there were over 1700 hectares (4200 acres) of forest burned in Saskatchewan, which is more than five times the ten year average of about 310 hectares (766 acres).

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

Conditions in the Thunder Bay area remain unchanged from July receiving less than 85 percent of normal precipitation for the month and continued to be under a D2 (severe drought). Conditions for the rest of the province improved through August with much of northern Ontario

receiving greater than 115 percent of normal precipitation. The D0 (abnormally dry) in north-western Ontario has been cut back significantly with improved rainfall through the region. The D1 north of the North Channel has been cut back to the east; however the Sudbury region continued to be under a D1 due to the duration of the drought in the area. The Great Lakes continue to be 13-20 cm (5-8 in.) below last year's levels as they have been unable to recover from the low spring runoff. Southern Ontario received very little precipitation in August, resulting in a D0 classification in portions of the south west region

Northern Quebec has improved through the month and there has been a significant reduction to the D0 boundary in the north. Areas of concern continued to be the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean and the Abitibi Regions. Precipitation ranges from 60 to 85 percent of normal with some areas dropping below 60 percent since April 1. The dry conditions throughout the season are expected to have negative impacts on cereal and forage crop yields.

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

Much of Atlantic Canada saw below normal precipitation during August. The most significant deficit of less than 40 percent occurred in eastern New Brunswick along the St. Lawrence River. The deficit has qualified the area for a D0 (abnormally dry) designation.