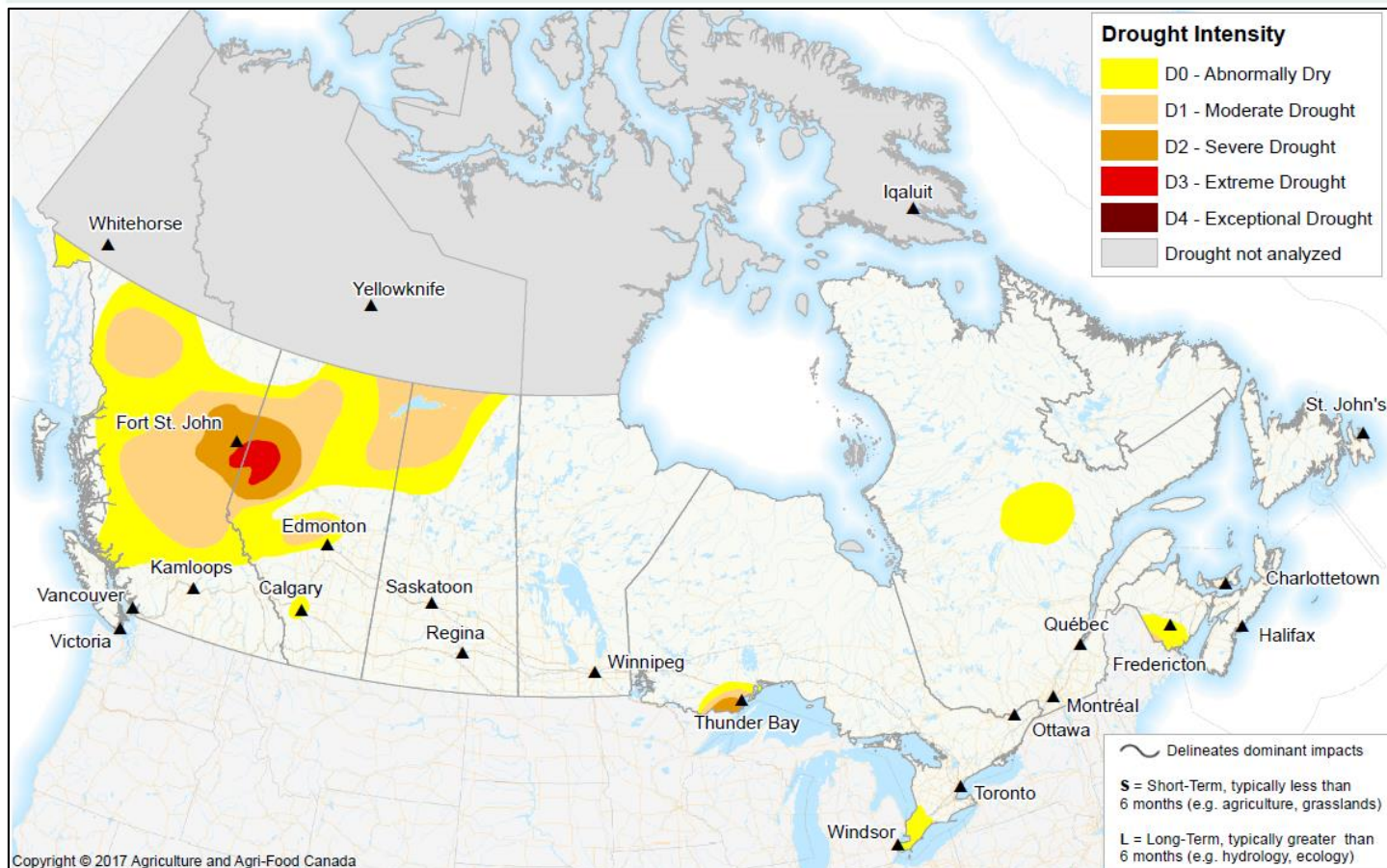


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of September 30, 2010



Drought concern continues for the Alberta and British Columbia Peace region. Other areas of note include north-western Alberta, the Lake Athabasca region, and an emerging area in the far northwest of British Columbia. Conversely, much of eastern Canada, including large portions of Ontario and Québec, improved greatly due to tropical storm activity in the area. At the end of September, nearly 20% of agricultural areas in Canada are classified in an abnormally dry or drought area. That represents a decline of 10% from last month.

## Pacific Region (BC)

A D1 (Moderate Drought) area was added in northwest B.C. due to 40-60% of normal precipitation being reported over the past three months. The D1 (Moderate Drought) boundary in B.C.'s Interior was pulled significantly north to Williams Lake area, where water use



restrictions remained in effect. Dry conditions and above normal fire activity throughout north-central B.C. have impacted communities and producers. Producers in this region had to contend with lost grazing land. Since south-western areas of B.C. received in excess of 150% of normal precipitation since August 1, all previous abnormally dry areas in the region were eliminated.

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

Northern Saskatchewan had an exceptional fire season with over 1,800 hectares (4,400 acres) burned, compared to the ten year average of about 310 ha (760 ac). Precipitation remained low, with high fire danger all season. As a result, the D1 (Moderate Drought) around Lake Athabasca was expanded southward. Although precipitation on the B.C. side of the Peace River region was slightly below normal in September receiving approximately 1.5 to 2.5 inches of precipitation, As a result, the D3 (Extreme Drought) designation was upgraded to a D2 (Severe Drought). On the Alberta side of the border, this region has largely received 40-60% of normal since April 1, and Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) values have remained consistently in the lowest classification over a two-year period. In some of the most affected areas, annual crop and second cut hay yields were reduced to about 50-60% of normal due to the continued dry conditions.

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

Due to a series of tropical storms and significant precipitation events throughout eastern Canada, the previous D0 (Abnormally Dry) and D1 (Moderate Drought) areas were removed from north-western Ontario and north-eastern and south-central Québec. However, one area still of note is the D2 (Severe Drought) area around Thunder Bay. This area has experienced long-term hydrologic impacts due to reduced runoff and a below average spring