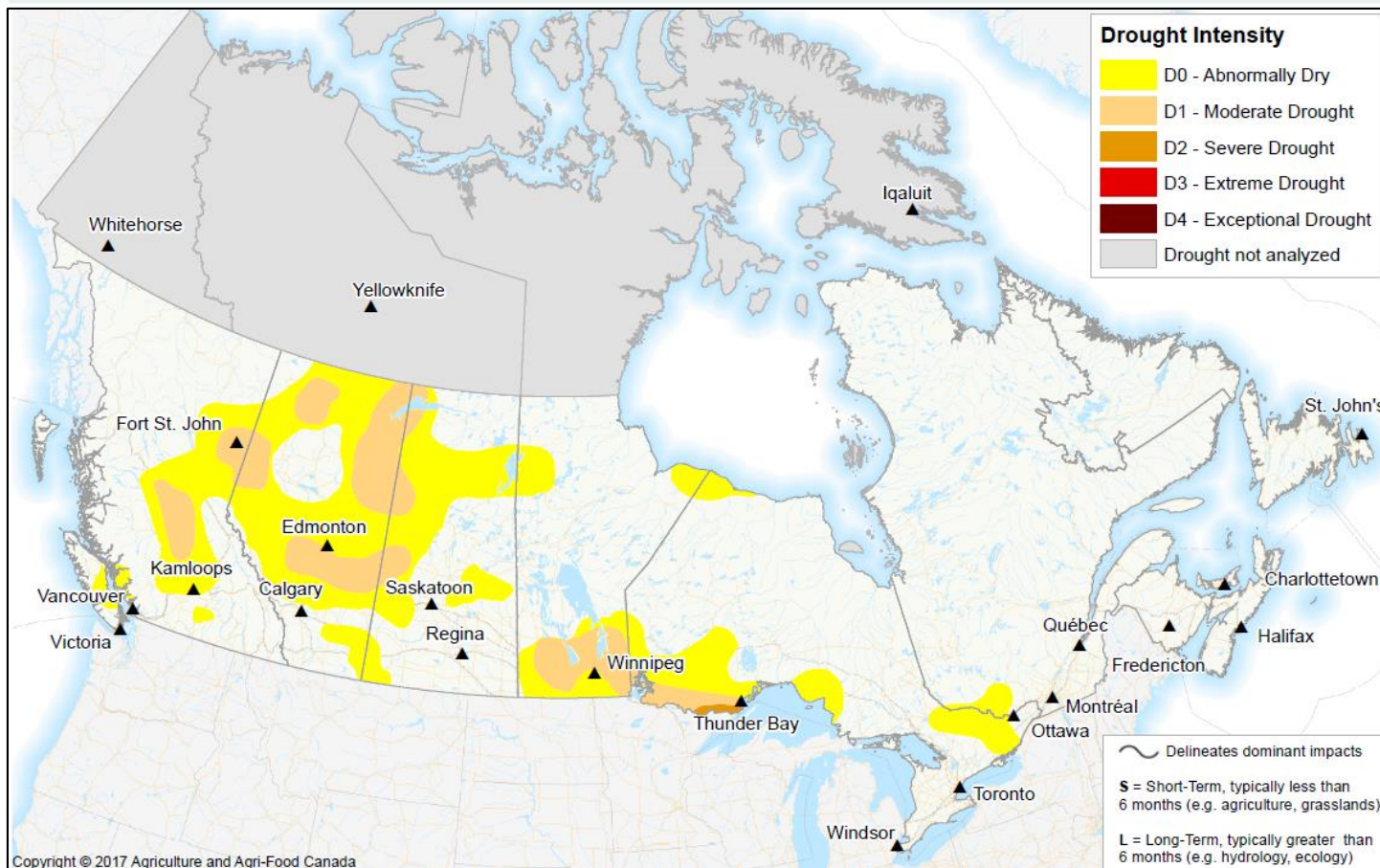


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of November 30, 2011



In November areas of drought expanded across Western Canada, and remained consistent in the East. Monthly average temperature was normal or slightly below in the west, while Central and Eastern Canada had temperatures 3-4°C (5.4-7.2°F) above normal. British Columbia, the Prairie Provinces, and Ontario had some degree of moderate drought conditions (D1), while areas east of Quebec had no concerns.

## Pacific Region (BC)

In some areas of central B.C. precipitation has been less than 40% of normal over the past three months, so the D1 classification there was expanded from October. Higher elevation snow accumulation continued throughout November in mountainous areas, and is generally average for most locations. Parts of Vancouver Island were classified abnormally dry (D0); rainfall there ranged below 60% of normal over the past six months. Typically winter brings the highest



precipitation amounts to the region, so a return to normal levels over the next few months would quickly alleviate the dry conditions.

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

In northeast B.C. and northwest Alberta, the Peace Region, remained D1 where precipitation has been less than 40% of normal over the past three months. Prior to spring 2011, the region was in a multi-year drought and will be monitored closely going into spring 2012. Drought areas (D1) expanded across south-central Alberta, and into Saskatchewan. Precipitation was very low over the past three months, with amounts that occur less than one year in 50. Earlier spring runoff and precipitation pushed river and stream flow volumes from average too much above average for the March to September 2011 period throughout Alberta, but continued below average precipitation and mountain snowpack could bring river volumes down next year. Moderate drought conditions prevailed across southern Manitoba. The southeastern region of Manitoba has been experiencing moderate drought due to lack of rainfall since late June. Flows were below normal for a number of rivers and streams across the province, and on-farm water supplies were reported to be short in areas surrounding Winnipeg and south along the Red River to the US border. Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives reported that winter seeding was affected by the lack of rainfall in south-eastern Manitoba. As December approached, snow accumulation was well below normal across southern Manitoba. Looking ahead, a weak to moderately strong La Niña event is expected for the duration of 2011, and continuing from January to March 2012. For western Canada La Niña typically brings below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

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

Abnormally dry areas (D0) continued in southeast Ontario where rainfall remained below 70% of average over the past three months. According to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Conservation Authorities in the region had issued Level 1 to Level 2 low water conditions at the end of November. Mild temperatures in November helped to dry out any areas that did receive rainfall. Long term drought continued in the Lake Athabasca region of northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, and in the Rainy River-Thunder Bay region of northwest Ontario. In the Lake Athabasca region precipitation was 60% less than normal over the past three months, and over one year is less than 150 mm (6 in) in an area which normally receives 300-400 mm (12-16 in) annually. Snow accumulation was average through November. Long-term drought also remained in northwest Ontario. Over the past year precipitation has been about 125-250 mm (5-10 in) less than normal, and stream flows throughout the region have been below average as well. Conservation Authorities in the Thunder Bay area declared Level 1 and 2 low water conditions in early December.