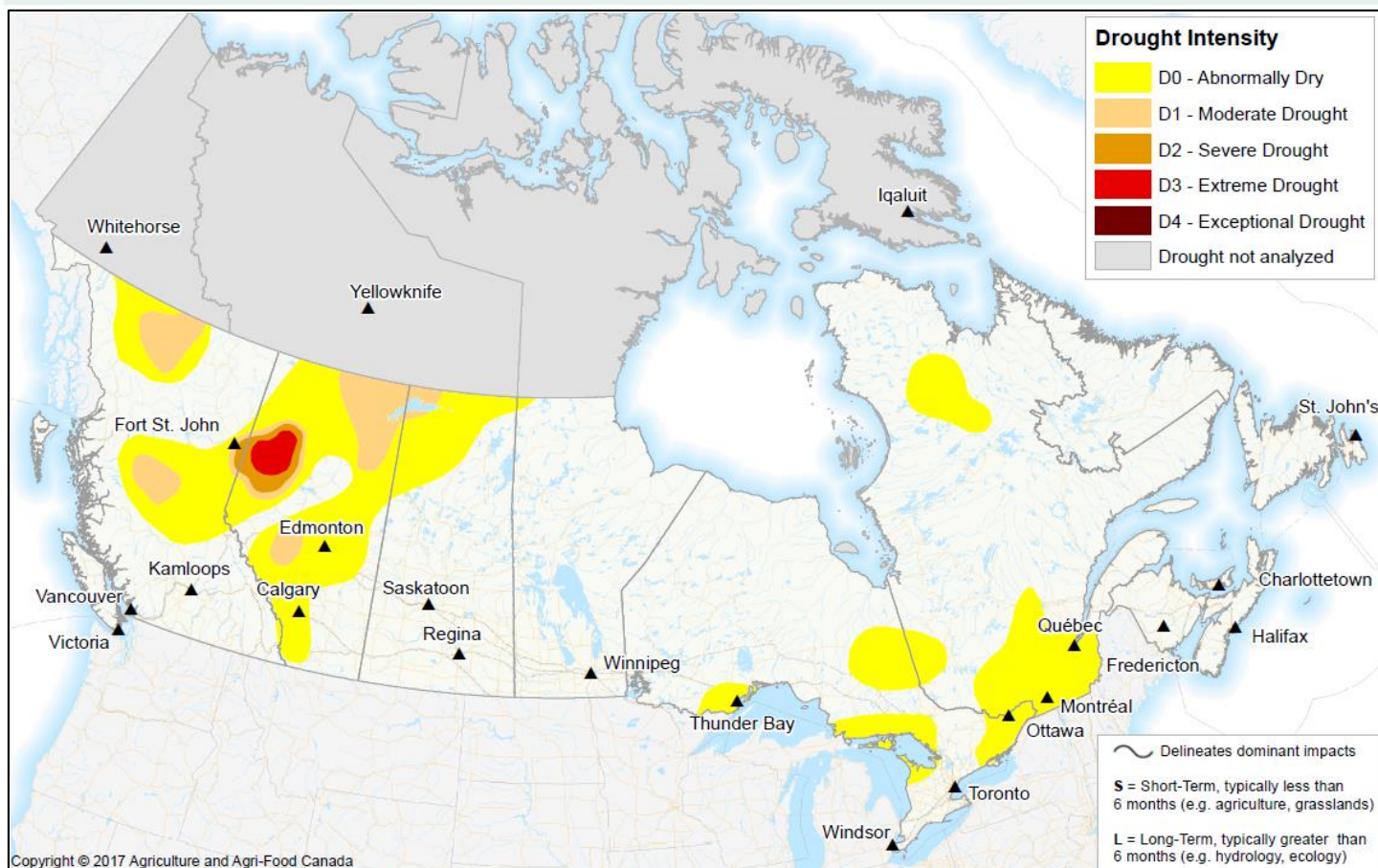


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28, 2011



Drought conditions have remained fairly stable throughout the winter months although the impacts of continued drought conditions through the winter are less severe than during other times of the year. The extent of drought decreased modestly in north central British Columbia and north central and north western Alberta. For a sixth consecutive month, the Peace River Region of northwest Alberta continued to be designated in a D3 (Extreme Drought). Conditions in portions of central Canada continue to be classed in a D0 (Abnormally Dry) condition due to low winter precipitation. As of February 28, the percentage of area in Canada classified as abnormally dry or in drought was just over 21%, with the majority represented by D0 (Abnormally Dry) at 18%. With the anticipated snowmelt throughout some of the drought stricken regions within the next couple months, we would anticipate great improvements. Above normal snow pack throughout western Canada will hopefully provide significant runoff and replenish soil moisture resulting in significant improvement



Pacific Region (BC)

Seasonal predictions for northeast British Columbia and northwest Alberta indicate above normal precipitation for the remainder of the winter and early spring as La Niña conditions are expected to start to weaken later this spring. This definitely provides cautious optimism for recovery.

In the central and Northwest regions of British Columbia, a D1 (Moderate Drought) designation remains. This area is anticipated to show significant improvements through the spring as the above normal snow pack begins to melt. Currently, mountain snowpack across B.C. is near normal or even above normal. This region is dependent on the snow pack to replenish water supplies, and significant amounts of snow are required through the early spring to help this region recover. For much of B.C., cool and wet conditions are expected through the spring period, with potentially higher snowfall accumulation and delayed freshet in mountain regions.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought conditions remained most severe in the Peace River region of northwest Alberta. The region has been in significant drought for a number of years. At the end of the 2010 growing season (April to October), parts of the region ranked in the lowest 10th percentile. Some areas had precipitation deficits of more than 220 mm (8.6 in) and Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) values remained at the bottom of the scale, at less than -2.0 during this time. However, winter snowfall has been above normal with much of the region reporting greater than 130% of normal precipitation since November 1, 2010. Therefore, this region is expected to climb out of the drought, with anticipated higher than normal spring runoff, and sufficient soil moisture recharge. Until the snow begins to melt and the soil moisture and available water supplies improve, this region will remain in a D3 (Extreme Drought) designation.

Areas classified D1 (Moderate Drought) persisted throughout west-central Alberta. Although winter precipitation has been normal or above normal, this region has reported SPI values between -1.0 and -1.5 and precipitation deficits of up to 120 mm (4.7 in) over the past year. The drought severity and extent will likely improve once the snowpack begins to melt. A D1 (Moderate Drought) classification also endured in the boreal region of northeast Alberta and northwest Saskatchewan. During the summer and fall last year, forest fires were rampant throughout these regions due to reduced precipitation. Although snowpack is currently near or above normal in some regions, above normal spring moisture is needed to help recover from the damage last year. The Athabasca region of northwest Saskatchewan which has been most impacted, remains in a D1 (Moderate Drought) designation.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Snowfall has been below normal in eastern Ontario and southern Quebec. The Ottawa area continued to receive lower than normal precipitation to the end of February. Heading further east, the Montreal area picked up additional precipitation in February, but overall has been lower than normal all winter. Low snowfall was also reported in the Timmins area of northeast Ontario, the Abitibi region of northwest Quebec, and the Lac-St-Jean region of central Quebec. As a result these regions were classified D0 (Abnormally Dry).