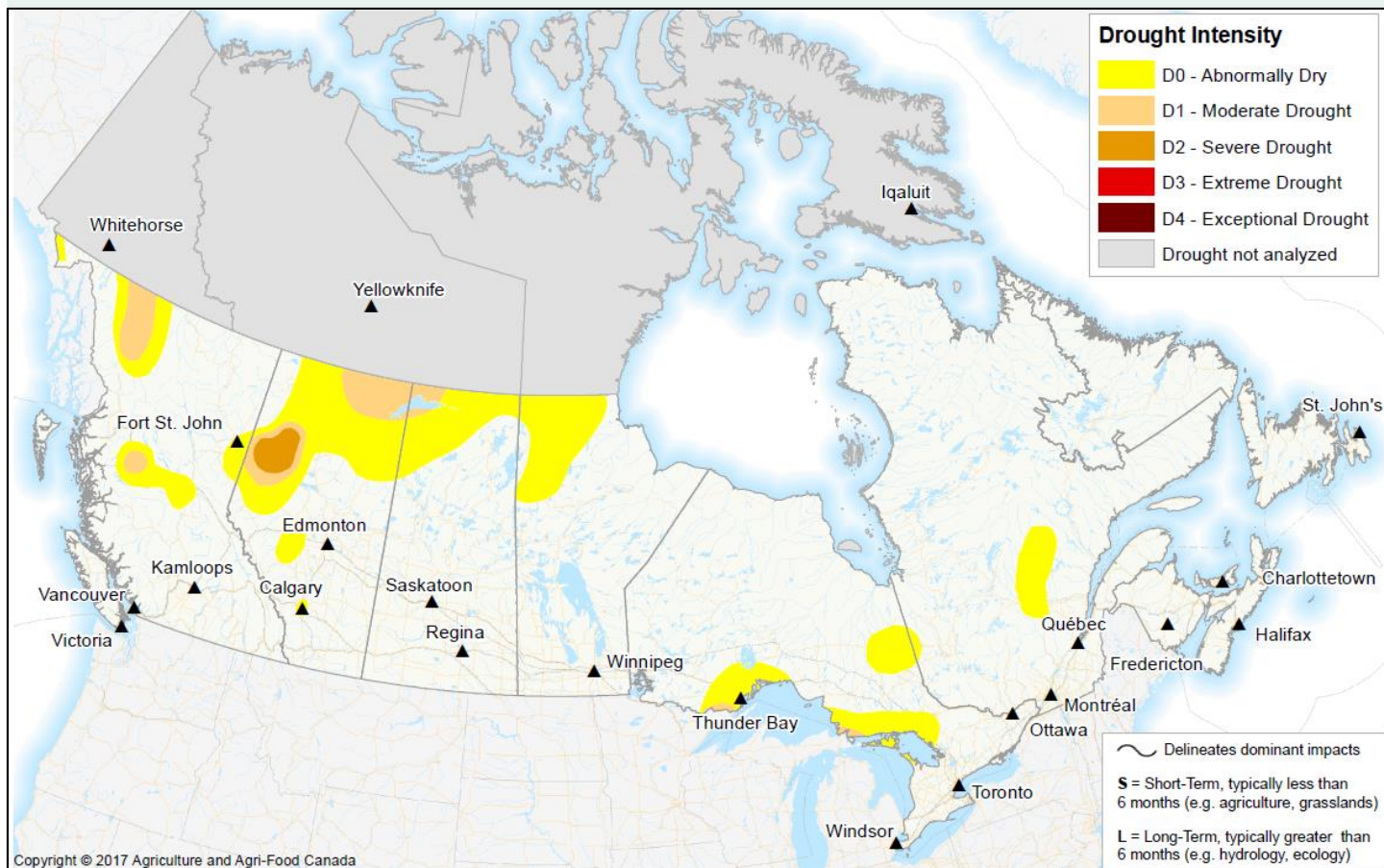


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2011



Temperatures remained well below normal for much of Western Canada through March delaying spring melt. While, spring storms in Eastern Canada resulted in well above normal precipitation for parts of southern Ontario and Quebec. The reduction of the dry or drought extent and severity continued in many regions throughout Canada.

Optimism continues to grow for northern B.C. and Alberta including the Peace River Region, due to above normal snowpacks and high runoff volumes expected in April during the spring thaw. Many Prairie communities began preparing to deal with potentially record high runoff levels and floods as a result saturated soils at freeze up and the above normal snowfall received throughout the winter season.



Pacific Region (BC)

Mountain snow packs were normal or above normal all winter across BC and high elevations could still receive additional snow in April and May. In the north-central region near Prince George the basin snow pack was 150% of normal as of April 1. Although the winter snowpack is above normal, long term dryness persists throughout the region. This region will start to experience significant recovery as the snow continues to melt. At the end of March the D1 (Moderate Drought) area was reduced in this region. With increased freshet expected, the area will likely improve throughout April.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The extent of drought decreased in central and north-western Alberta. Most notably, the Peace River Region of northwest Alberta was downgraded from D3 (Extreme Drought) to D2 (Severe Drought). Winter snowfall accumulation was favorable for recovery, with snowmelt anticipated to replenish reservoirs and soil moisture reserves. There was continued optimism from a region that has been in an abnormally dry or drought state continually for the past number of years. The region will continue to be monitored closely as spring melt continues.

In northern Saskatchewan and Alberta, areas classified D1 (Moderate Drought) continued, with an expansion of the D0 (Abnormally Dry) classification into northern Manitoba. Although the drought severity and extent will likely improve once the snowpack begins to melt, dry conditions remain and below normal winter snowpack had resulted in concern for the region. As a result, fire weather forecasters are calling for the situation to be monitored closely. Above normal spring moisture is needed to help recover from the damage last year; especially in the Athabasca region of northwest Saskatchewan.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In northern Ontario and Quebec, isolated areas classified D0 persisted where snowfall was below normal. This included the Timmins area of northeast Ontario, the Abitibi region of northwest Quebec, and the northern area of the Lac-St-Jean region of central Quebec.