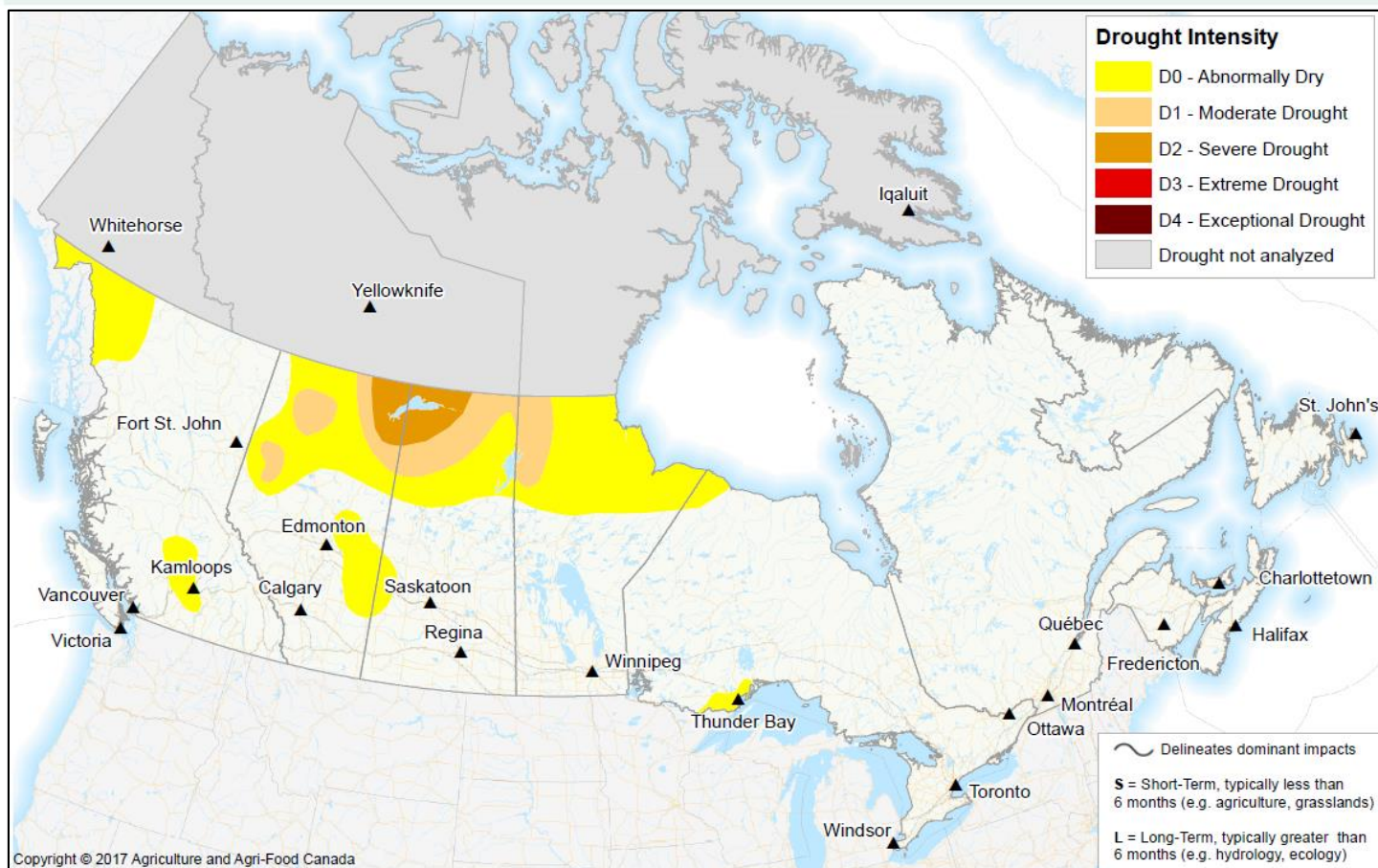


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 30, 2011



Drought conditions intensified throughout the northern prairies and British Columbia, while southern regions continued to receive adequate to abundant rainfall. Significant drought persisted in the northern Boreal Forest region of Western Canada, which contributed to a steep rise in the number of forest fires and the amount of area burned, while southern portions dealt with excessive rainfall and flooding. There were no concerns for drought in Eastern Canada.

The most severe drought affected area is in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan near the border with the Northwest Territories. The D1 (Moderate Drought) designation surrounding the Lake Athabasca region of Alberta and Saskatchewan was upgraded to D2 (Severe Drought) because monthly and seasonal precipitation continued to be well below normal. As of June 22, forest fires in northern Alberta have already claimed over 775,000 ha (1.9 million ac); a staggering figure, which is about 11 times the ten year average of just over 70,000 ha (173,000



ac). In June, fires in Saskatchewan have also surpassed the ten year average of 110,000 ha (272,000 ac) with a total area burned of 200,000 ha (494,000 ac). The annual fire season is far from over, and without normal or above normal precipitation during the summer months, it is likely that fire danger will remain exceptionally high. Stations in the region have reported deficits of more than 75 mm (3 in) since April 1; the average for the area is about 85 mm (3.7 in). Stream flows through the region remained below average in June.

Surrounding the Lake Athabasca region, the D1 classification stretches from northeast Alberta to northwest Manitoba. Fire danger remained high throughout the region in June, and precipitation since April 1 has ranged below 60% of normal. Many communities have instituted fire bans. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions enveloped the northern Boreal region of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, as well as the northwest corner of British Columbia. Precipitation throughout the region has been lower than normal since April 1, but stream flows remain near average.

Stream flows are running high in the southern prairie agricultural region due to high rainfall in June. The D0 extent in eastern Alberta and western Saskatchewan was reduced substantially to a small area in east-central Alberta along the Saskatchewan border. Approximately 30-70 mm (1.2-2.8 in) was received throughout the area June 17-19. In northwest Alberta, the long-term drought in the southern Peace River region improved greatly, thanks to a large storm event that brought between 70 to 100 mm (2.8-4.0 in) on June 24-25. As a result, the D2 (Severe Drought) classification was downgraded to a D1. However, the storm missed the northern portion of the Peace River region, which had been excessively dry since April 1, 2011, and so it remained classified in a D1 (Moderate Drought) condition. Despite the recent high rainfall, the region in general continues to be affected by three consecutive years of drought. While annual crops will fare better, forage crops and pasture are still recovering from the long term affects.

A small area in central B.C. remained in a D0, where water use restrictions were put in place. One small area in northwest Ontario, which is recovering from a long-term drought, remained classified as D0 (Abnormally Dry).