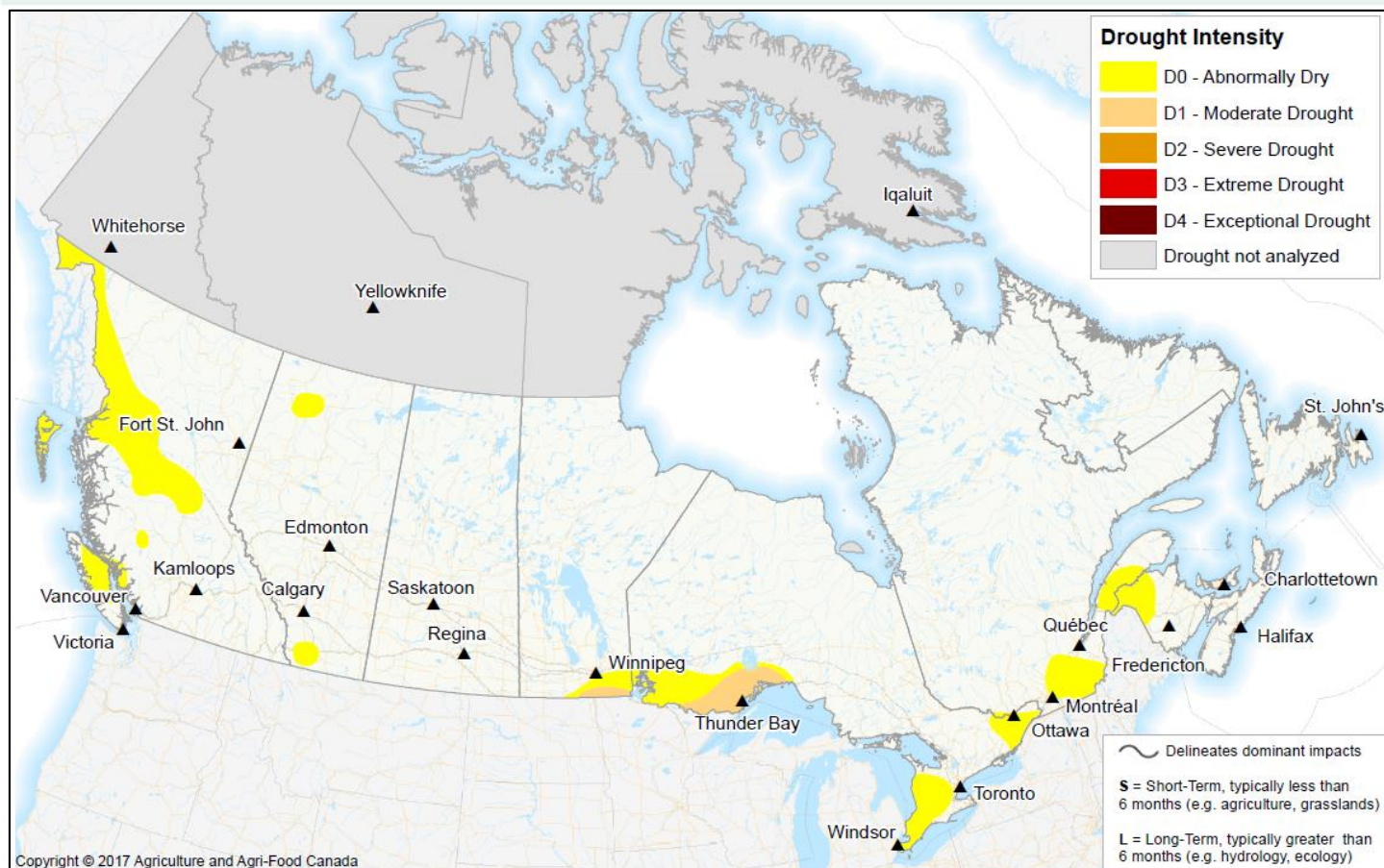


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2013



At the end of January, the extent of drought across the country was very low. Precipitation was above-normal throughout the prairie region in January, and has been high all winter. That continued to provide great potential for spring soil moisture recharge. Drought and abnormally dry conditions continued in Eastern Canada, particularly in southern Ontario and southern Quebec. This is due to long-term moisture deficits, going back to last summer's widespread drought in the region.

Pacific Region (BC)

In British Columbia, below-normal precipitation on Vancouver Island and along the western coast led to a continuation of the D0 classification. Precipitation in those regions was down 120



mm compared to normal. The northern interior of B.C. also remained classified D0 where snowfall was minimal for this point in the winter season.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

In Western Canada, above-average snowfall reduced dry conditions in many regions. The driest area remained in southern Manitoba, which was classified D1. The region is short 20-40 mm over the past three months. Limited snowfall in southwest Alberta led to a D0 classification there. In northern Alberta, the northern portion of the Peace River region remained D0 because of longer-term impacts. Over the past six months precipitation shortages were more than 50 mm (2 in).

Central Region (ON, QC)

In Eastern Canada, normal to above-normal precipitation in January continued to alleviate dry conditions. With the additional moisture there is much optimism for the spring; however long-term impacts of the severe drought of 2012 remained. As such, areas of southern Ontario and southern Quebec were classified D0 (abnormally dry). Levels of the Great Lakes ranged from below normal to near-record lows. In particular, Lakes Michigan and Huron followed the record low set in December with a record low level for January; 73 cm (29 in) below the long-term average. Lake Superior remained 33 cm (13 in) below average for January. Areas along the north shore, including the Thunder Bay area, remained classified D1 (moderate drought). Precipitation there was still about half of normal since September 1 of last year.