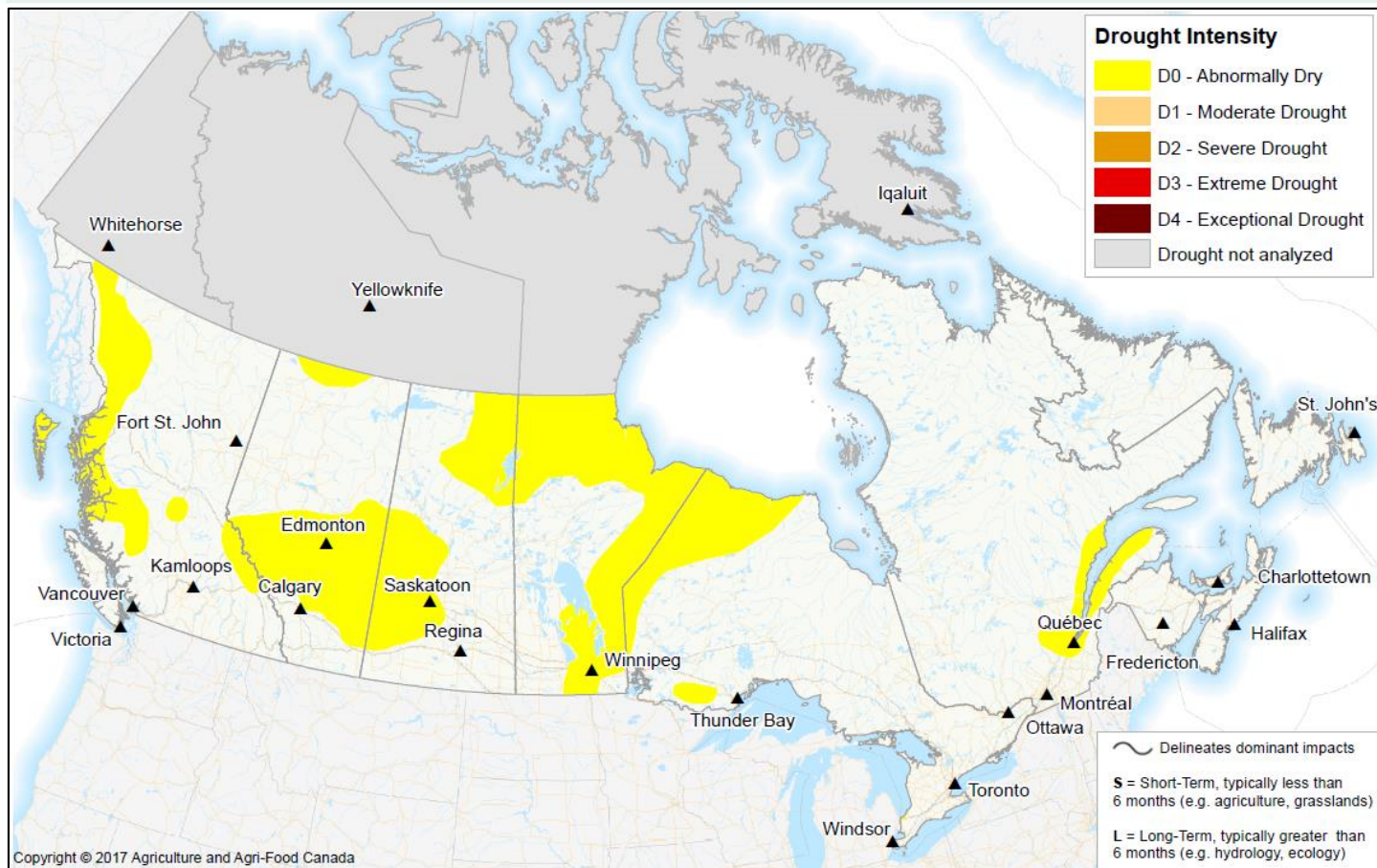


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of October 31, 2013



In October the extent and severity of drought increased across Canada. In western Canada, Moderate Drought (D1) overtook areas of east-central Alberta and west central Saskatchewan, while in northern and eastern Canada Abnormally Dry (D0) classifications were expanded.

Monthly temperatures in October were near normal across the country. Northern British Columbia (BC), Alberta, northeastern Ontario, and Quebec saw temperatures that were slightly above seasonal, while southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba were below average. October rainfall was well below average at less than 50 percent of normal in many places across western Canada. That led to increased drought across the region. The Atlantic region also had below average rainfall, though there was minimal concern. Southern Ontario reported above average rainfall, over 60 mm (2.3 inches) more than expected in some places.



Pacific Region (BC)

In British Columbia, additional rainfall in October improved the drought situation. The previous D1 classification in central BC was downgraded to Abnormally Dry (D0). The remaining D0 areas were maintained throughout the interior where rainfall remained about 50 percent of average over the past four months. The Queen Charlotte Islands and interior regions east of the Islands also remained classified D0.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Most drought areas were concentrated in western Canada. In east-central Alberta and west-central Saskatchewan soil moisture reserves were well below normal, a result of limited rainfall since August. While there is still much time to eliminate the deficit before next year, concern continued about the impact to crop and pasture lands. The dry conditions also impacted fall seeding intentions in some areas. This area was classified D1 (Moderate Drought) as a result.

In north-eastern Manitoba stream flows remained lower than normal due to lack of rainfall. Since April 1 of this year, rainfall in this region has been 70 percent of normal; as a result the D0 classification continued across the region. Short-term and long-term impacts also remained, though the winter season typically brings high snowfall to northern regions and with it opportunity to recharge lakes and streams. In the northern boreal forest region, some improvement was noted in northwestern Saskatchewan. As a result the D0 classification was scaled back.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In Quebec the D0 classification was maintained along the St. Lawrence River and in the Gaspé region because October rainfall failed to replenish moisture reserves. Impacts, however, remained minimal overall.