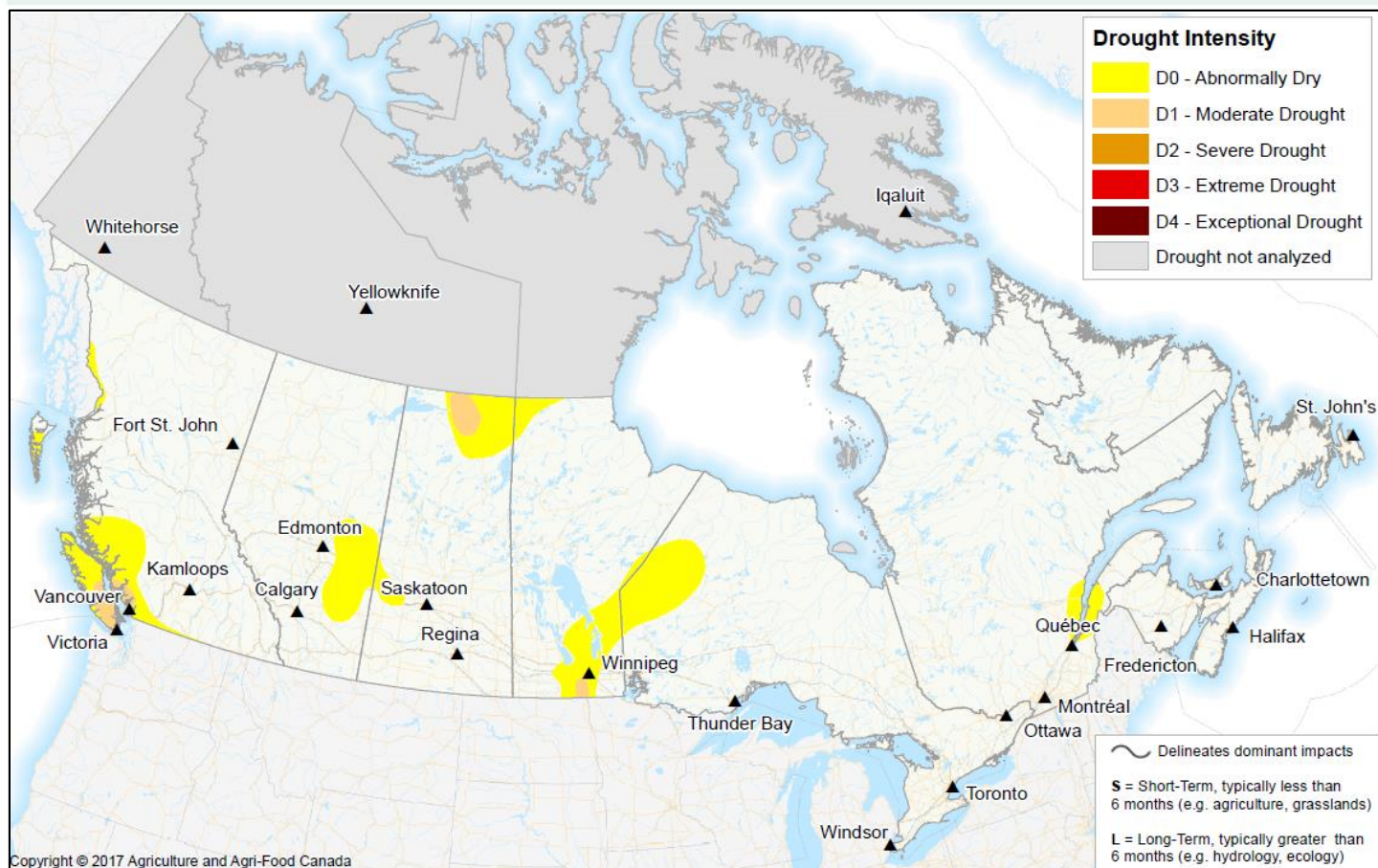


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of December 31, 2013



In December, drought levels continued to be minimal across Canada, with some areas improving slightly and others falling further behind normal precipitations levels. In the west, there was an abundance of snow in central and northern Alberta but very little precipitation in Manitoba or along coastal British Columbia. Lack of winter snowfall in Manitoba and coastal regions will have significant impacts in the spring if conditions do not change. In eastern Canada, conditions remained relatively stable with very few regions of concern. Much of the precipitation across Canada fell as snow, and therefore has not resulted in immediate changes to soil moisture or water supplies.

## Pacific Region (BC)

The southern Pacific coast received well below-average precipitation in December, with Vancouver Island recording over 60mm less rain than usual. This resulted in Moderate Drought



(D1) conditions for a significant portion of the island and part of the mainland, with a large section of surrounding area being labelled as Abnormally Dry (D0). The area between Vancouver Island and Kitimat, however, received above average precipitation and was downgraded to normal, although most of the Queen Charlotte Islands remained dry.

## **Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)**

The Prairie region saw a mixture of good and bad conditions with respect to drought. In central Alberta and Saskatchewan, above average December precipitation has created potential drought relief in the area, causing the region to be downgraded from D1 to D0. The area northwest of Edmonton all the way into the Peace River region of British Columbia received upwards of 200% above average precipitation, eliminating all dryness west of Edmonton. In the northern Saskatchewan-Manitoba border region, the extent of the dry conditions decrease but the severity increased, with a large section being upgraded to Moderate Drought just east of Lake Athabasca. The same thing occurred in the Manitoba-Ontario border region, where the overall dry area shrunk but conditions worsened in both the Interlake region and along the US border. Southern Manitoba has received below average precipitation all winter and this continued in December, with areas along the US border receiving only 40 – 60% of their usual precipitation.

## **Central Region (ON, QC)**

Central Canada received average to above-average precipitation in most areas, resulting in relatively stable conditions. Some dryness developed along the St. Lawrence River and in the Gaspé region. Atlantic Canada remained free of dry conditions for another month. The well above-average December precipitation added to what was an already wet Atlantic winter.