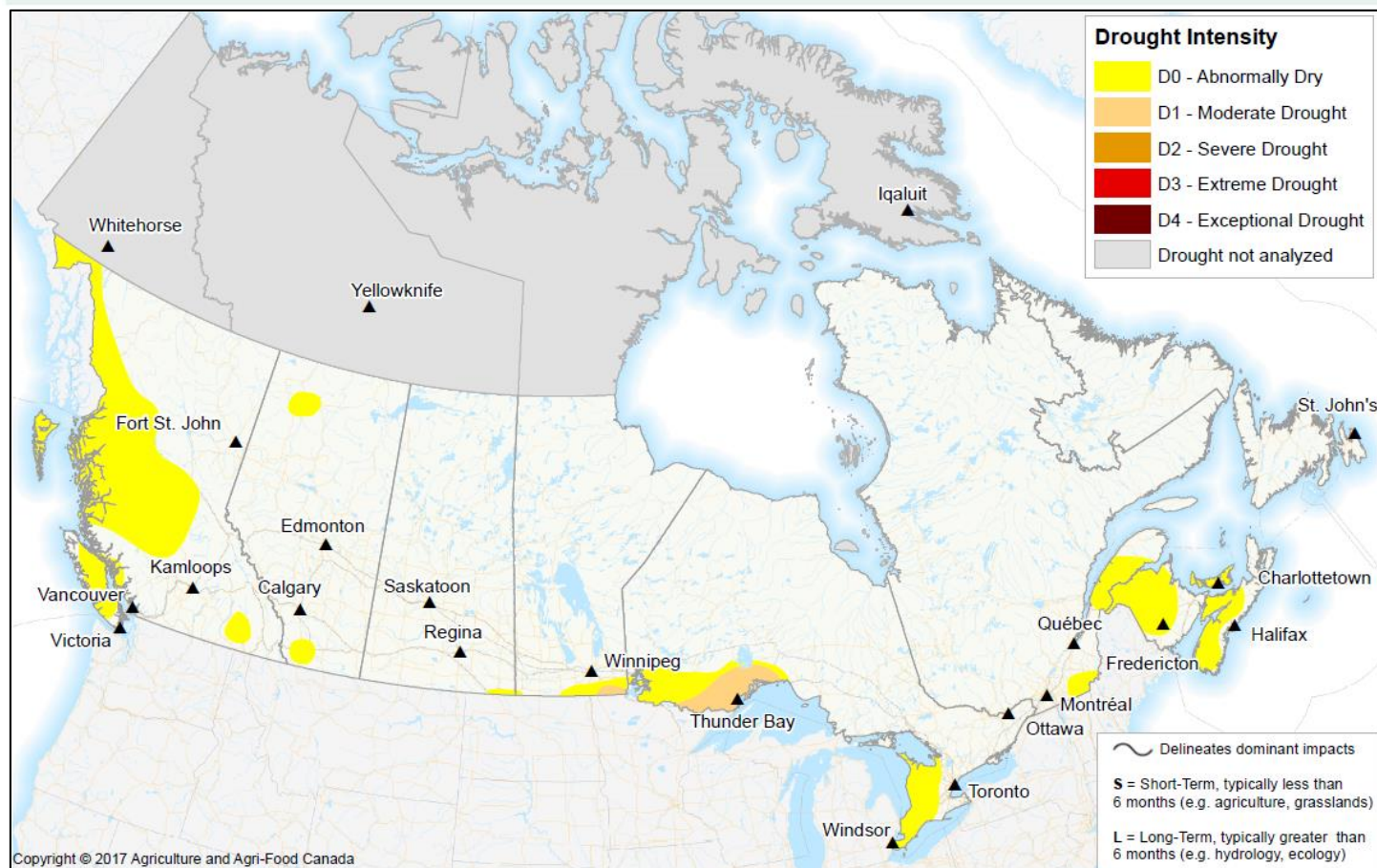


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28, 2013



The extent of drought across Canada increased since January, though overall the total area affected was still quite low compared to past years in February. However, many regions currently experiencing abnormal dryness could shift into significant drought nearing the spring season if forecast conditions for low precipitation prevail. This includes much of Eastern Canada, including southern Ontario and parts of the Atlantic region. The most significant drought areas in February remained in southeast Manitoba and northwest Ontario, on the edge of the significant drought encompassing much of the Great Plains States.

Pacific Region (BC)

In British Columbia, abnormally dry areas persisted in the northern interior, which has had less than 60 percent of its normal winter precipitation. Vancouver Island and western coastal areas



also remained dry, which led to a continuation of the D0 classification. Precipitation deficits in these regions are more than 300 mm (12 in) in some places since last November.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

In Western Canada, well above-average snowfall brought on concern for spring flooding for many areas in Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba. Temperatures next month are forecast to be above normal from Saskatchewan eastward. That may hasten flooding expected in southern Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba if melting and runoff progresses rapidly.

Dry areas however remained in southeast Manitoba which was quite dry over the last summer and autumn seasons, and has had about average snow accumulation. Parts of Alberta are also drier than normal, particularly in the northwest Peace region and in the southwest. Over the past six months these regions are short 60 mm (2.4 in). Precipitation next month is forecast to be lower than normal over much of Alberta, which could bring about drought conditions ahead of spring seeding.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Parts of Northwest Ontario, including the Thunder Bay area on the north shore of Lake Superior, continued to be classified D1 (Moderate Drought). There, winter season rain and snow fall have been below 50 percent of normal since November 1 of last year. In southern Ontario, an overall abnormally dry winter brought below-normal precipitation, lack of snow accumulation and limited snow cover throughout the season. Snow that did fall did not stay for long as temperatures were generally above normal. Temperatures in February were near normal, and precipitation was slightly above average.

Great Lake water levels remained lower than average on Superior, Michigan, and Huron, and outflows for February were lower than normal on all lakes. Lakes Michigan and Huron followed a record low January level with a gain of about 50 mm (2 in) thanks to higher precipitation levels. That put the current level at month's end to approximately 25 mm (1 in) above the all-time low. Looking ahead to the next month, precipitation is expected to be below normal from southern Ontario to the east coast. That could raise the potential for drought to develop again this year in southern Ontario due to the current long-term moisture deficit.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In the Atlantic region, winter precipitation has been extremely low. Since November 1 of last year parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia received only half of normal or about 200 mm (8 in) less than expected. These regions were classified D0, and with a forecast of below-normal precipitation over the next month will be monitored closely as drought conditions could develop.

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