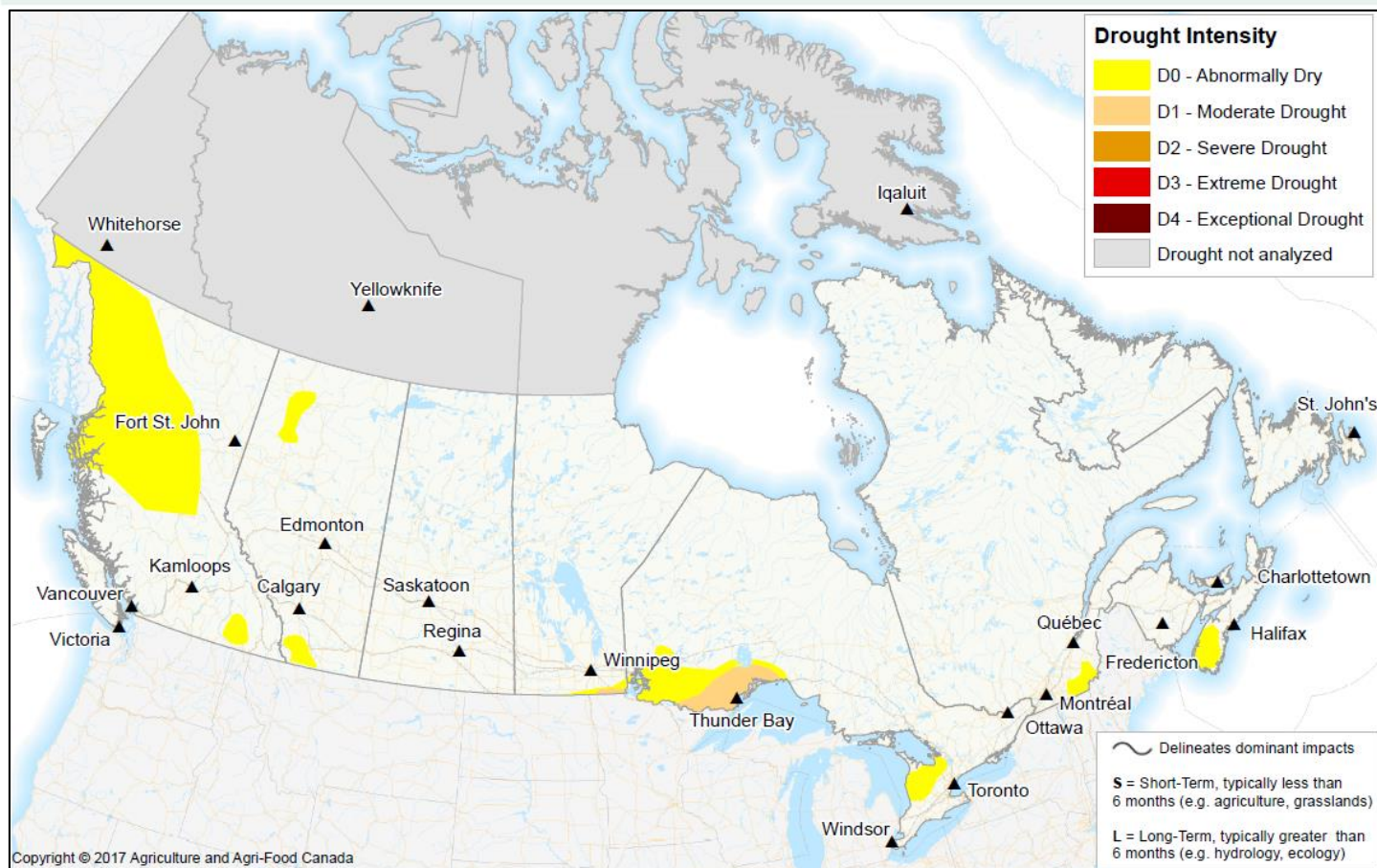


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2013



The extent and severity of drought remained low across Canada at the end of March. Most concern for continued dryness was in the Thunder Bay region of northwest Ontario and in northwest British Columbia. Abnormally dry areas remained in southwest Ontario, which is still recovering from last year's severe drought. Isolated areas of Alberta and southeast British Columbia were also identified.

Pacific Region (BC)

In Western Canada, abnormally dry (D0) conditions were noted throughout northwestern British Columbia. Winter precipitation remained less than 60 percent of normal. A small



area was marked D0 in the southeast of the province where the snowpack was also below normal.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

March brought colder than normal temperatures to the Prairie Provinces, while regions from Quebec eastward were warmer than normal. The frigid conditions kept winter lingering in the west, and prevented any thawing and runoff. As a result flooding was not expected until later in April, allowing more time for preparations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Temperatures were near normal in Ontario. In Alberta, abnormally dry conditions continued in the southwest where winter precipitation was below normal. In the northwest Peace River region the D0 classification also remained. This area experienced moderate drought conditions during the 2012 growing season, and has not witnessed a return to normal moisture levels. Snowpack in the region is higher than normal though, so the eventual spring melt and runoff could help alleviate these dry conditions.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Moderate drought (D1) remained in the Thunder Bay area on the north shore of Lake Superior. Precipitation there has consistently remained below 50 percent of normal since late 2012. The region will be monitored closely for potential impact of spring precipitation. A small area in southwest Ontario remained classified D0 (abnormally dry). Snow accumulation was negligible all winter for most of the region and especially so in this narrow band bordering Georgian Bay. With spring approaching, sustained average to above-average precipitation will likely further dissipate this drought area.

Great Lakes water levels continue to be down because of the 2012 drought, and will require some time to recover to normal levels. Of note Lakes Michigan and Huron remained near record low, at 26 in (660 mm) below average in March; that is only two inches (50 mm) higher than the record low set in 1964. Lake Superior was 13 in (330 mm) below average.