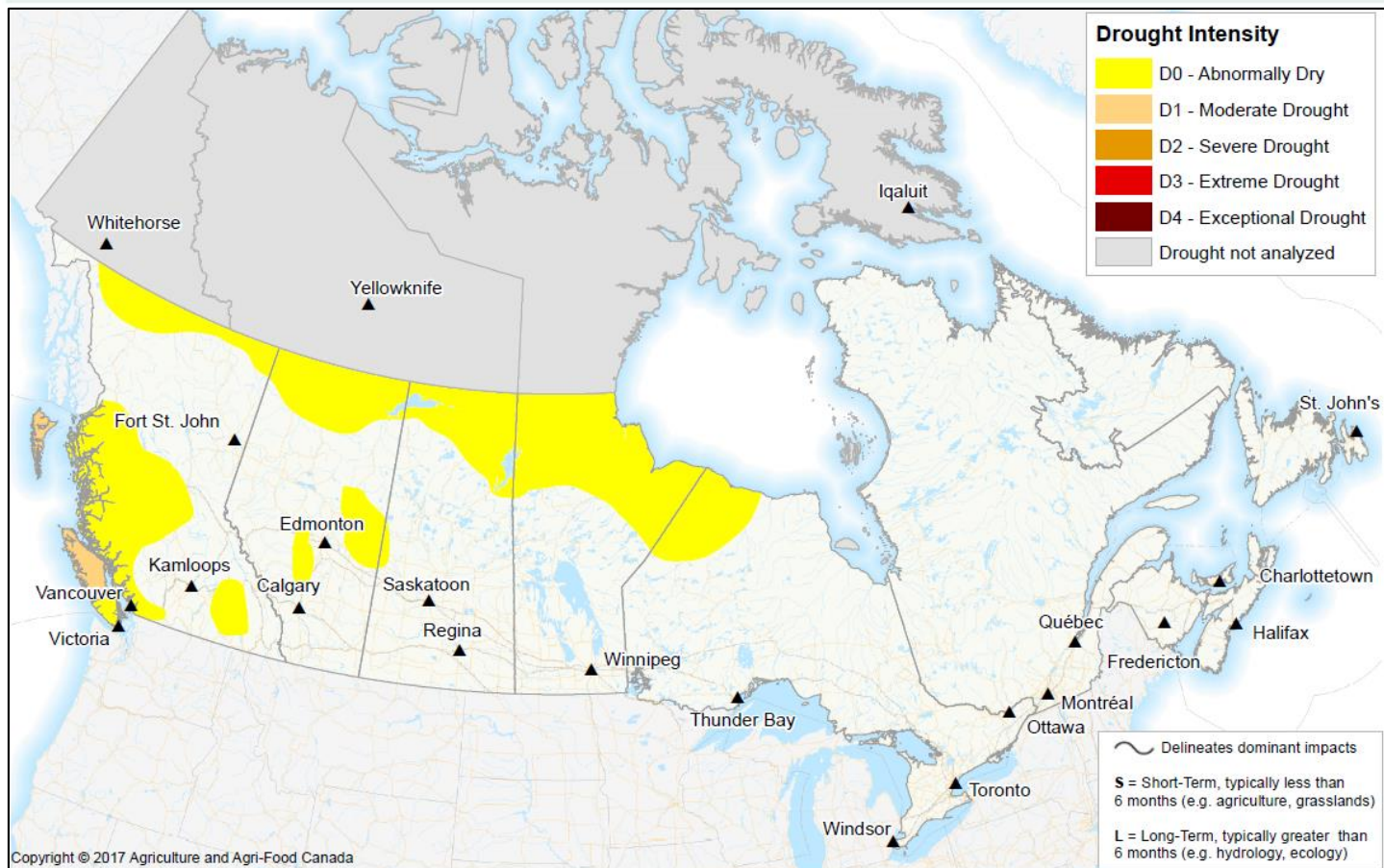


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of July 31, 2013



In the month of July the extent and severity of drought across Canada remained low with two areas that experienced moderate drought (D1), and few occurrences of abnormally dry (D0) areas. The driest areas remained on the west coast of Canada, north of Victoria on Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia.

## Pacific Region (BC)

Temperatures were warmer than normal throughout northern British Columbia which increased fire risk and dry conditions. Cooler than normal conditions prevailed across the Prairies reducing drying and drought risks. Quebec and Atlantic Canada saw higher than normal temperatures, however there was no concern for drought due to above normal precipitation.



Moderate Drought (D1) was found on Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands due to precipitation being 40-60 mm below normal for the past six months. Coastal BC, including interior regions east of the Islands, and the southern portion of Vancouver Island remained classified D0. The Vancouver International Airport station set a record with 0 mm of rainfall recorded in July. Fire risk was very high, and a ban on campfires was instituted for much of southern BC. Dry (D0) areas were also found in interior British Columbia, where for the last three months precipitation was 40-60 mm less than normal.

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

Monthly precipitation was above average throughout the Prairie Provinces; particularly in southern Manitoba. Rainfall was also above normal in southern Ontario and on the east coast. Western British Columbia and northern Saskatchewan had the greatest departures from normal with significant moisture deficits of 60 and 30 mm (2.4 and 1.2 inches), respectively. Low rainfall and higher temperatures increased the Abnormally Dry (D0) classification across the northern boreal forest region in Western Canada. Since April 1, precipitation in this region has been 40-60 percent of normal and in the month of July that extended into northern Ontario. Forest fire activity and risk remained high as a result. Dry (D0) areas also occurred in east-central Alberta where 23-60 mm less than normal precipitation occurred over the past six months. Short term impacts from the dry conditions however were minimal.