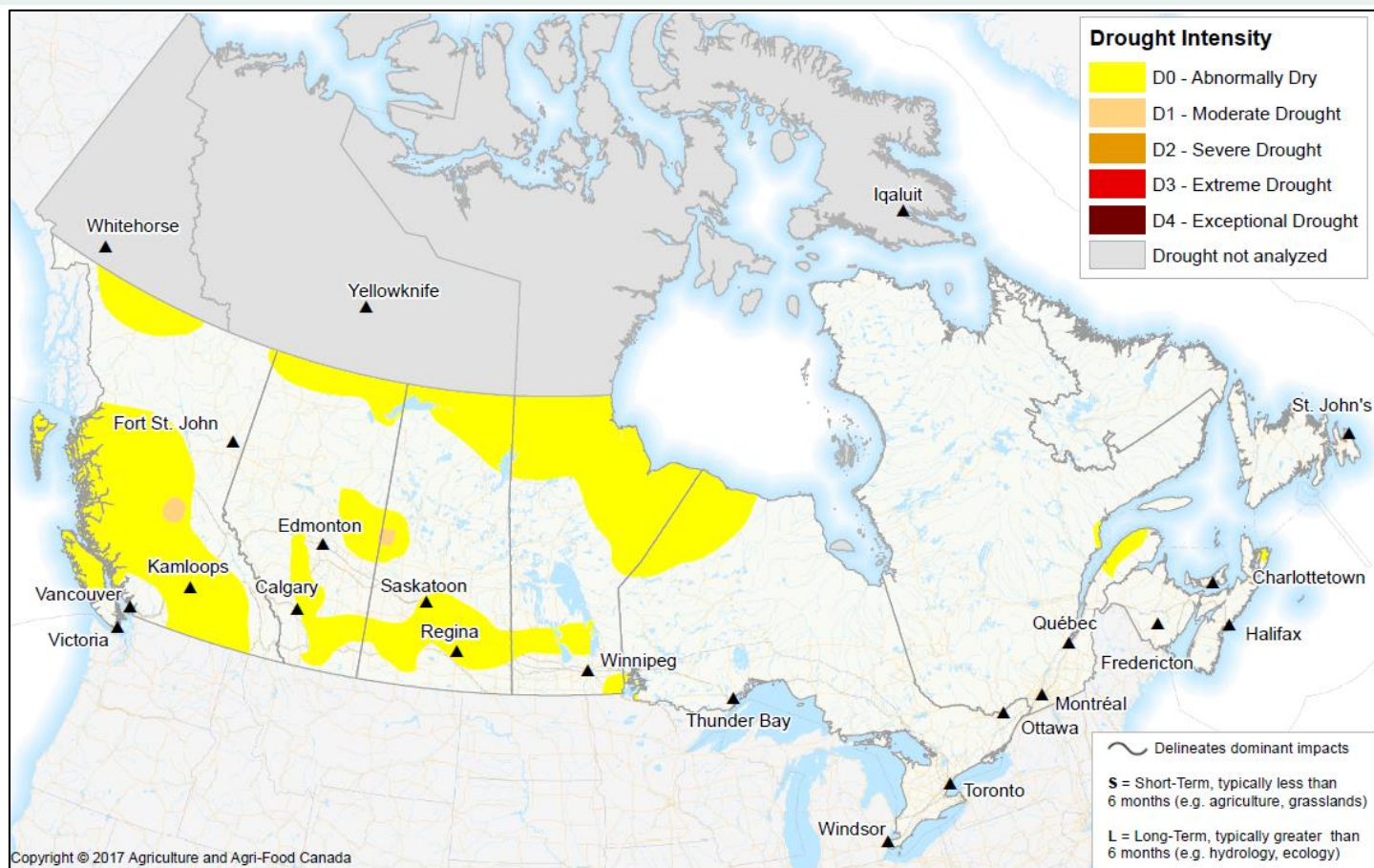


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2013



The extent and severity of drought across Canada remained low in August; with no areas classified higher than Abnormally Dry (D0). The driest areas were concentrated in western Canada, along with small areas marked D0 in eastern Quebec and northern Nova Scotia.

August rainfall was above average on the southwest coast of British Columbia (BC), and along the American border across the Prairie Provinces. Central Alberta, eastern Saskatchewan and western Manitoba were particularly dry however, with rainfall less than 40 percent of average. Rainfall in eastern Canada was largely normal or better apart from eastern Quebec and northern Nova Scotia.

Pacific Region (BC)



Last month Moderate Drought (D1) was introduced on Vancouver Island because precipitation was 70 percent below normal for the past six months. August however brought above normal rainfall to these regions, in the order of 150 percent of normal which was more than 25 mm (one inch) additional. Coastal BC, including interior regions east of the Queen Charlotte Islands remained classified D0. Fire risk throughout the province remained high, and a ban on campfires continued for much of the southern region. Dry (D0) areas were also found in interior British Columbia, where for the last three months rainfall remained 40-60 percent of normal. Temperatures were warmer than normal from British Columbia to the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border. That increased fire risk and dry conditions, but also helped spur on harvest operations in agricultural regions.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Normal temperature conditions prevailed from Manitoba eastward. In western Canada sustained high temperatures and low rainfall continued the Abnormally Dry (D0) classification across the northern boreal forest region. Since April 1, rainfall in this region has been 40-60 percent of normal. Forest fire activity and risk remained high as a result. Dry (D0) areas also occurred in central Alberta where rainfall was less than 70 percent of normal over the past three months; subsequently soil moisture ratings continued to decline since late July. Across southern Saskatchewan, hay and pasture land and some pockets of crop land were very dry. That increased concern about continued dryness going into the autumn season, but overall impacts from the dry conditions were minimal.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Abnormally Dry classifications were added to the Gaspé region of eastern Quebec and to northern Cape Breton in Nova Scotia. In Quebec rainfall was half of normal in August, along with negative standardized precipitation index (SPI) values reported over the last three months. In Cape Breton rainfall was 50 mm (two inches) less than expected in July and August. Impacts from the dry conditions in both regions were minimal.