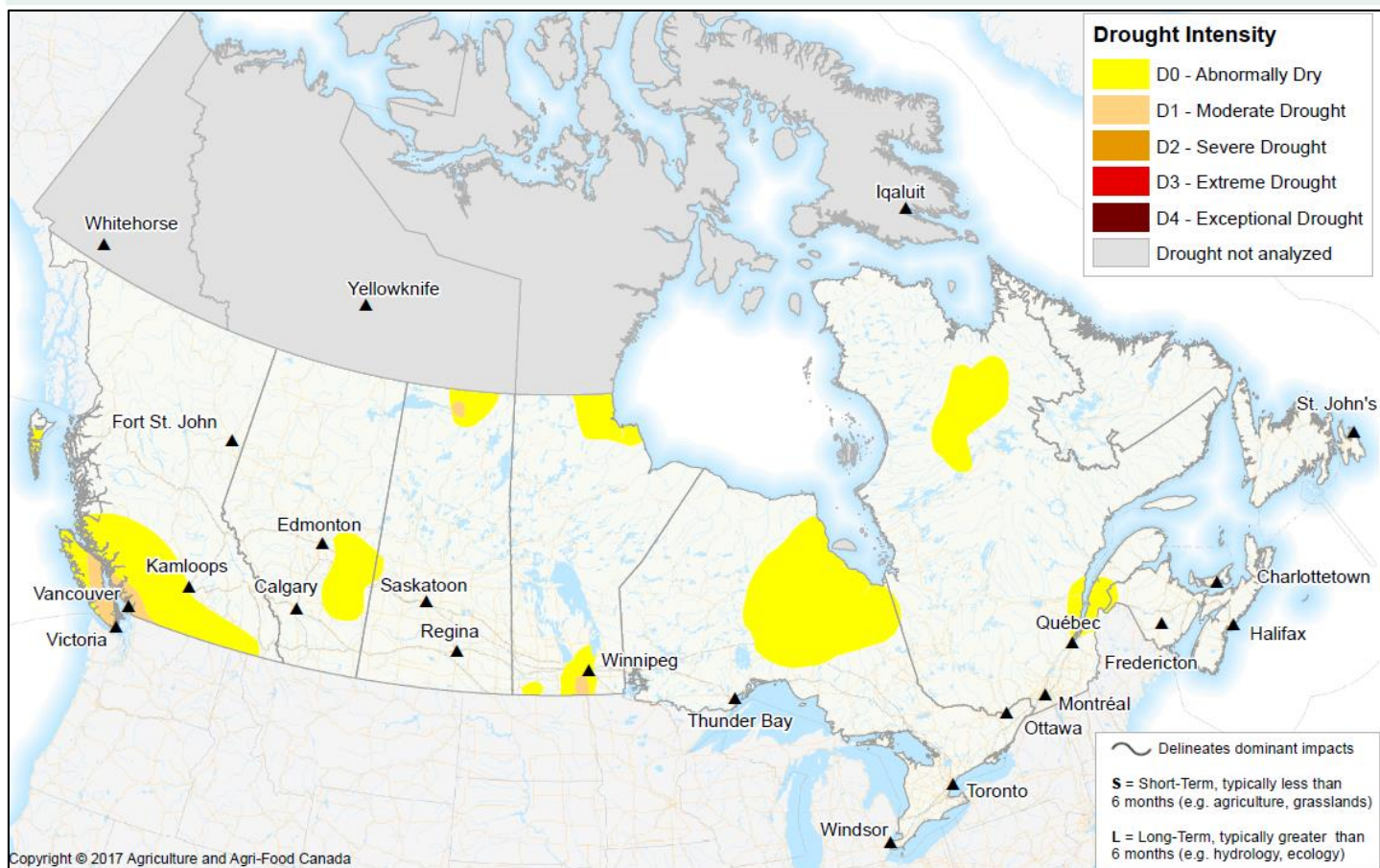


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2014



The month of January saw minimal precipitation in the west and average precipitation in the east. Drought conditions worsened along coastal of British Columbia but generally improved elsewhere across the Pacific and Prairie regions. In the Central and Atlantic regions, some dryness developed in the northern areas but conditions were otherwise stable. 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)

In British Columbia, the dry winter continued along the coast while further inland, the Okanagan Valley began to experience abnormally dry conditions. The Moderate Drought (D1)



conditions impacting Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland expanded due to well below-average January precipitation. This region has received extremely low to record low precipitation this winter season. The Abnormally Dry (D0) area on mainland British Columbia also grew in size, stretching towards Kamloops and continuing southeast towards the Alberta border.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The Prairie region experienced a very dry January, but for the time being this has not impacted drought conditions. The central and Peace River regions of Alberta have been extremely wet this winter, so despite the lack of precipitation this past month, conditions remained stable. In Saskatchewan, the Abnormally Dry area west of Saskatoon was downgraded to normal while the drought conditions in the north shrunk considerably. Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan have received below-average to average precipitation throughout the winter and Chinooks have eliminated much of the snowpack. With little snow cover, crops and soil are poorly insulated and, in places, exposed. These conditions have the potential to lower soil moisture and cause winter kill. The probability of winter kill and soil moisture loss is increased with high degree of fluctuations in extreme temperatures which have been experienced through the region. Manitoba saw the Interlake region and the area east of Lake Winnipeg downgraded to normal. However, new Abnormally Dry areas developed in the north along Hudson Bay and in the south along the US border, next to Melita. This southern area has received well below average precipitation this winter, which could lead to soil moisture concerns in the spring.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In northern Ontario and northern Quebec, a lack of precipitation led to the classification of two Abnormally Dry areas. Also in Quebec, the dryness in the St. Lawrence and Gaspé regions expanded slightly. Otherwise, the Central region was stable throughout the month. The Atlantic region experienced another wet month and is also stable and free of drought conditions.