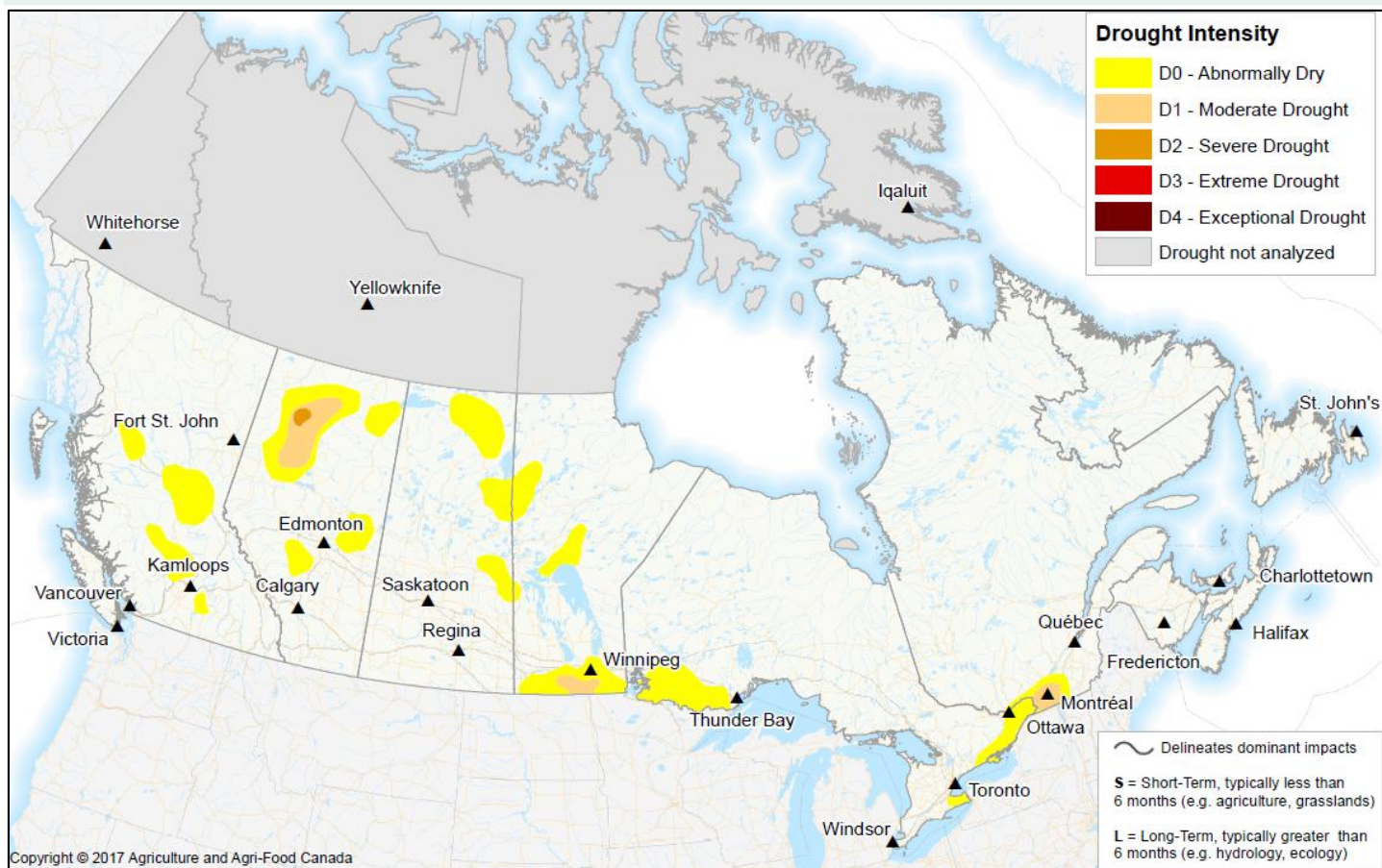


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of December 31, 2014



Drought conditions in western Canada continued to improve through the month of December. Substantial precipitation in northern British Columbia and Alberta has allowed the area's pockets of drought to recede considerably. The accumulation of snow is also welcome, as producers have reported the need for above-normal precipitation during the winter to recharge soil moisture and surface water supplies. While the overall condition throughout the region has improved, an area of Moderate Drought (D1) lingers in northern Alberta, due to the long-term impacts of a dry fall.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

In contrast with the western side of the country, Manitoba and eastern Canada experienced a much drier December. The Abnormally Dry (D0) area in southern Manitoba and Northern



Ontario, which is continuous with the broader D0 region in the Midwestern United States, has expanded and intensified. The region experienced a relatively dry autumn, with precipitation levels near half of the seasonal norm; as a result, the area entered winter with relatively poor soil moisture. Through December southern Manitoba saw precipitation levels 40% below the monthly average and temperatures three degrees above average. This allowed the inherited dry fall conditions to intensify, as an area of Moderate Drought (D1) emerged in southern Manitoba. Fortunately, the conditions are classified as short-term and the area will likely recover in the coming months.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Much of the Quebec City–Windsor corridor experienced precipitation levels 20-40% lower than normal, as well as temperatures 2 to 3 degrees above normal through December. These conditions, compounded with the region's below normal precipitation through autumn, resulted in a small Abnormally Dry (D0) area within the corridor. The area, which was identified in November, intensified and expanded slightly through December. While some Moderate Drought (D1) has emerged in southern Quebec, the conditions remain localized and will likely subside as the winter season provides sufficient spring moisture.