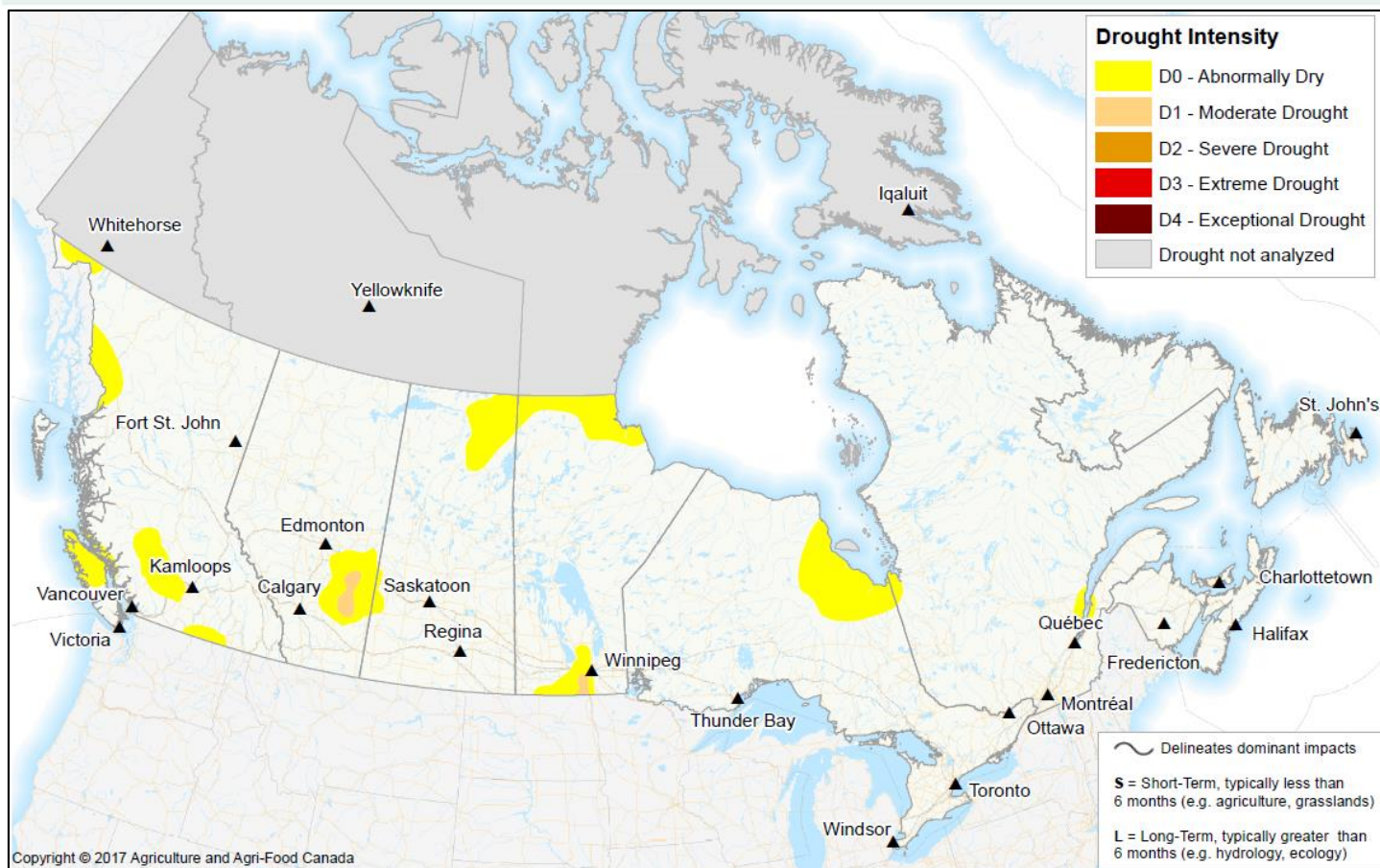


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2014



Cold spring conditions carried on into the month of April, where the monthly mean temperature was below-average across much of the country. Snow cover and frozen ground remained in many areas, resulting in minimal change in drought conditions. Some new abnormally dry areas were identified in central and the northwestern coast of British Columbia, and also in northern Ontario around James Bay, and the area of dryness in northern Saskatchewan expanded into Manitoba. The area of moderate drought in eastern Alberta expanded due to long term accumulative dry conditions within the region, as well as short term below-average precipitation and below-average temperatures of -6 to -4 degrees Celsius during the last three months, which further delayed soil moisture recharge. The area classified as moderate drought south of Winnipeg, Manitoba decreased in extent but was still dry due to continued low moisture as well as below-average precipitation over the fall and winter months. Some abnormally dry areas, including Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlotte Islands,



northwestern Alberta, northwestern Ontario and southern Quebec, returned to normal. Moderate and severe drought in southern British Columbia was downgraded to abnormally dry.

After the long, cold winter conditions that created a significant snowpack in many regions, the spring melt has begun across the country due to warming temperatures. As the ground begins to thaw and the snowpack melts, spring runoff will likely recharge soil moisture in some of the dry areas. Above-average spring precipitation is required in order to relieve the drought conditions in Alberta and Manitoba. Snow cover remains in areas of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, as well as in patches in the northern prairie region, but snow cover has dramatically decreased since the end of April and the remaining snowpack should melt in the near future.