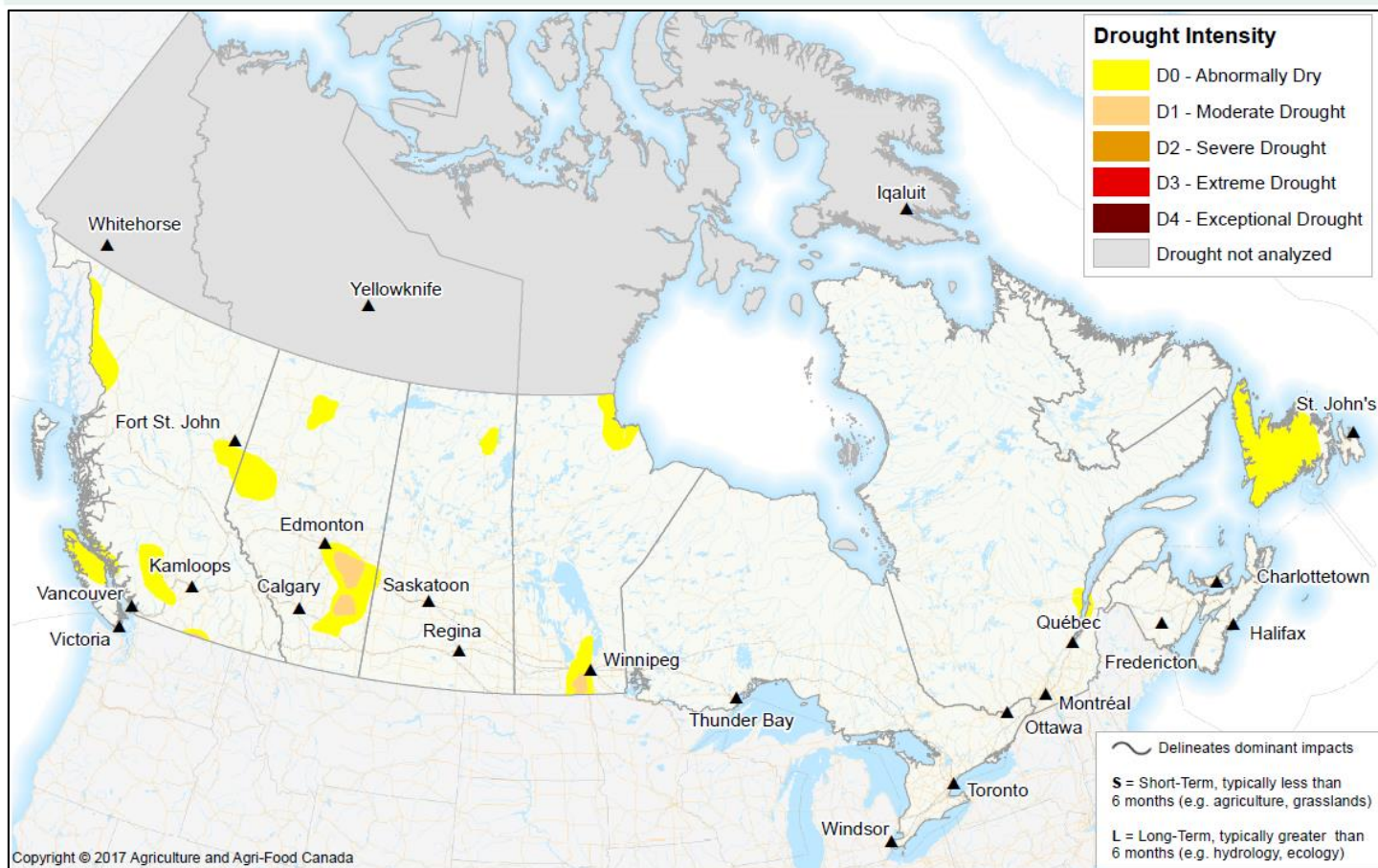


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2014



The beginning of May saw a continuation of April's cool, wet weather across Canada, followed by warmer temperatures towards the end of the month. These mild conditions allowed much of the winter's snowpack to thaw, producing sufficient spring runoff to recharge soil moisture in certain dry areas. Particularly wet conditions were experienced throughout much of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and northern Saskatchewan. These above average levels of precipitation relieved a number of areas that were Abnormally Dry (D0) through March and April. The improvement in conditions was particularly seen in northern Ontario, eastern Quebec and Northern Manitoba. The area surrounding Winnipeg, in southern Manitoba, also experienced some improvement, as its Abnormally Dry (D0) classification withdrew slightly. Despite this, the area of moderate drought which carried through March and April is still present. This lingering drought is due to accumulated dry conditions over the fall and winter months, as well as below average precipitation over Winnipeg this past month.



## **Pacific Region (BC)**

Precipitation was varied across British Columbia this past month, alternating between just below and just above normal. The Abnormally Dry (D0) region along the North Coast expanded, while the D0 areas in the Cariboo and Vancouver Island regions contracted slightly. These abnormally dry areas will likely recede as summer begins.

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

Western Canada also experienced drier conditions through May; precipitation levels across Alberta into central British Columbia were 20 to 60% below the monthly average. The Peace River area received particularly low levels of precipitation, with less than 40% of the monthly average. As a result of this dry spell, a new Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket emerged in the area. In south-eastern Alberta, the arid conditions exacerbated the Moderate Drought (D1) which was formed by long-term accumulative dry conditions. As this area is the result of long-term conditions, it will take significant rainfall to alleviate the situation.

## **Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)**

In contrast with the rest of eastern Canada, the Atlantic provinces experienced a relatively dry May. Precipitation in the region was as low as 40% of the monthly average and temperatures were 2 to 3 degrees Celsius below normal. As a result of these adverse conditions, much of Newfoundland is classified as Abnormally Dry (D0); however, this will likely subside as spring progresses.