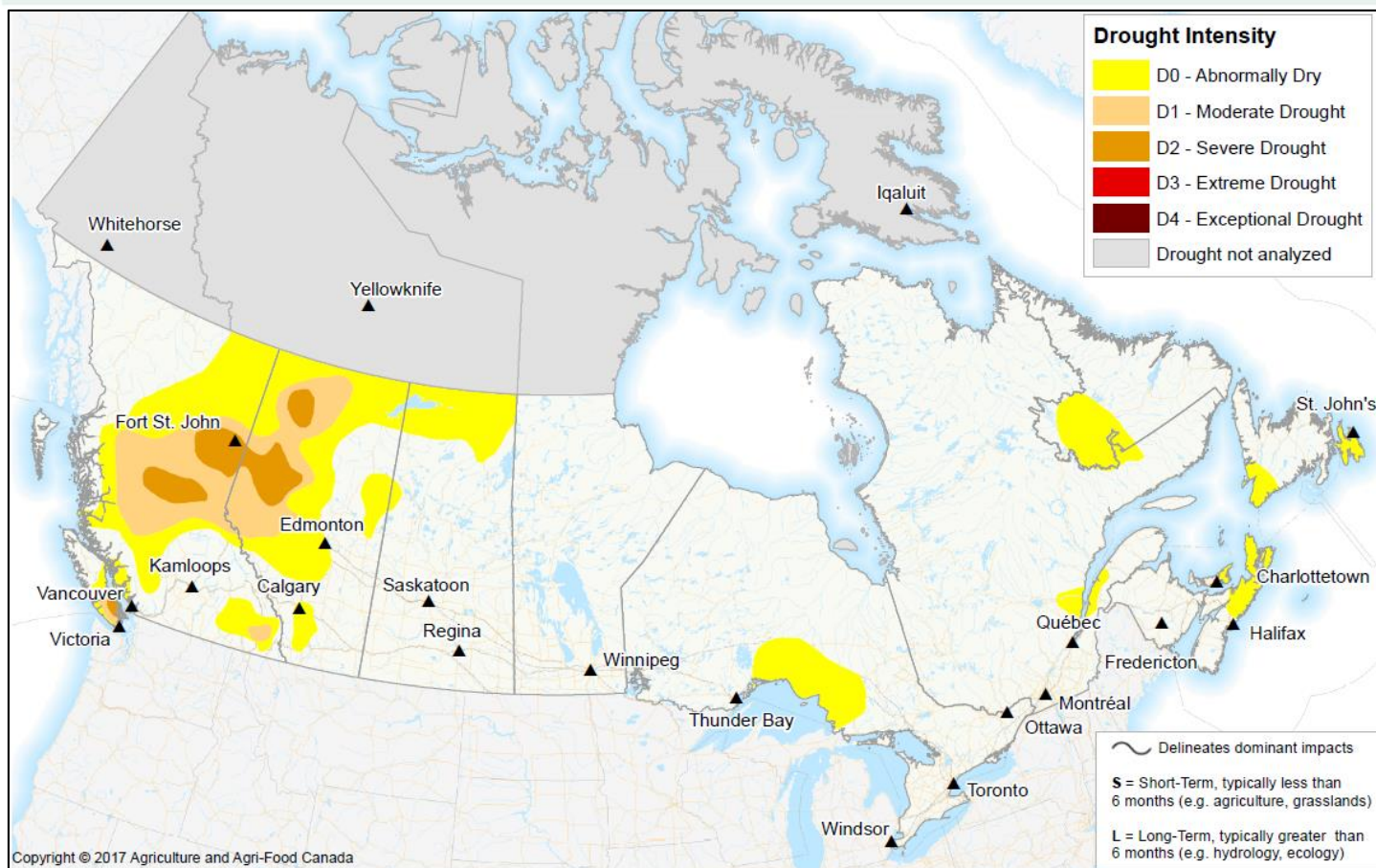


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2014



Drought conditions continued to worsen in August throughout central British Columbia and northwestern Alberta. Temperatures throughout British Columbia and northern Alberta were above normal resulting in increased water loss and adding to the drought concern. In the central Canada and Atlantic regions, some localized areas of abnormally dry conditions continued. In addition to the large regions of drought concern in western Canada, there are a number of smaller pockets that have developed abnormally dry conditions over the month of August. These include the Southeast region of British Columbia, western Alberta, northern regions of Ontario Labrador and Northern Nova Scotia. In southeastern British Columbia, the Kootenay and Columbia areas, have started to show signs of continued drought. Stream flow conditions are generally slightly below normal for this time of year. Precipitation has been below normal much of the season and agricultural production is down. A dry August in the western region of Alberta have resulted in abnormally dry conditions; at this time there is little



concern for drought. Northern regions of Nova Scotia have been experiencing dry conditions throughout the summer resulting in some agricultural production losses and some concern for feed shortages. This region remains classified in a D0-Abnormally Dry. In northern Ontario, a lack of precipitation led to the classification of an Abnormally Dry area north of Lake Superior.

## **Pacific Region (BC)**

In British Columbia, the warm dry summer continued through August. Drought conditions worsened on Vancouver Island, Central British Columbia and in the Peace River of northeastern British Columbia. 1300 separate wildfires have resulted in approximately 340,000 Ha. burned. The wild fire suppression is expected to cost the province 350 million dollars this season. Agricultural production has also been significantly impacted. Forage production throughout the drought regions has fallen to 40 to 60 per cent of normal, and many regions are having difficulty ensuring livestock have adequate water supplies. To compound the issue, wildfires also reduced native grazing areas. Central regions of British Columbia continue to experience very dry conditions having received near record low precipitation since April 1; July and August being the two driest months. Rivers in the central portion of the province are at 10 – 20 year lows and most tributaries are at record or minimum low flows for this time of year. Forage production is estimated to be below 50 per cent of normal throughout most of the region. Given the continuation of dry conditions and low river levels much of this region has been classified in a severe drought – D2. Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands have also been extremely dry throughout the summer months resulting in much of the region being classified in a D2. In this area, the province has called for voluntary water reductions from all municipal, agricultural and industrial users. The Cowichan River on Vancouver Island is experiencing what is being called its worst drought ever. The river is down to 30 per cent of normal. The low stream flow and warmer water has resulted in increased mortality of salmon trying to make it up river to spawn.

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

The Peace River region continued to struggle with poor soil moisture, low water supplies and poor agricultural production. Dwindling water supplies has forced officials to impose municipal water restrictions. In the Peace region, most tributaries are near or at record minimum low flows for this time of year. The region received below 40 per cent of normal precipitation in August and below 60 per cent of normal since April 1. Portions of this region have not seen measurable precipitation in over 3 months. As conditions continued to degrade, much of the region is now classified as a severe drought in a D2 classification.

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