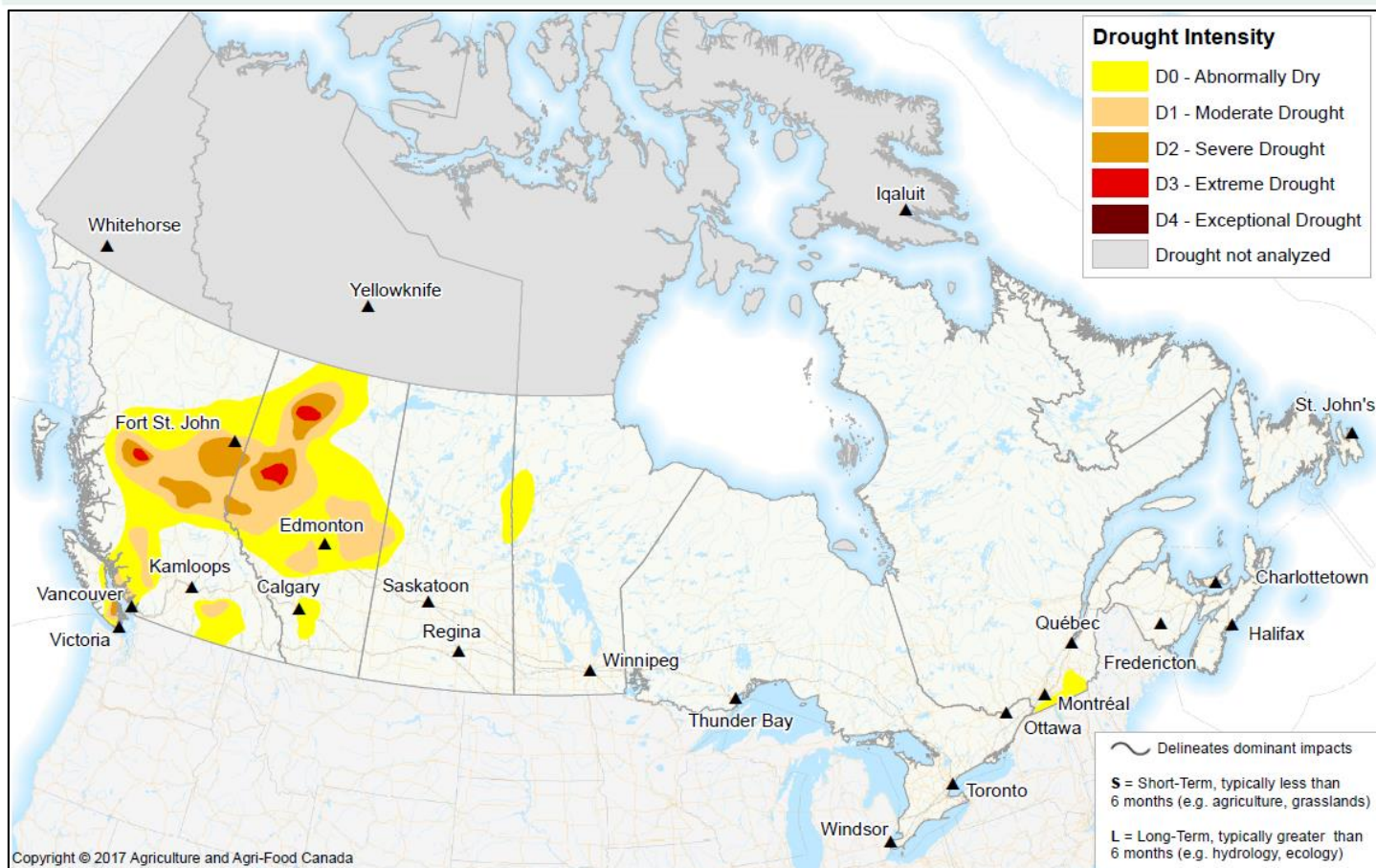


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of September 30, 2014



Drought conditions throughout central British Columbia and northwestern Alberta continued to increase in severity in September. Below normal rainfall throughout central and northern regions of British Columbia and above normal temperatures continued to deplete water supplies throughout British Columbia and northern Alberta. The rest of Canada received adequate rainfall or prior conditions were wet enough to remain not classified as drought. At the end of September, 189,927 head of cattle and 2.5 million acres of forage were located in regions of Canada classified as drought. 87 per cent of the total livestock affected were located in northern in Alberta. Nationally, 7 per cent of Canada's beef sector and 10 per cent of Canada's forage land was affected.

Pacific Region (BC)



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In British Columbia, the warm dry summer continued into the autumn period for most regions. There was some recovery in the northern regions of Vancouver Island and northern coastal regions however the major drought regions continued to worsen. Central British Columbia and in the Peace River of northeastern British Columbia were the main regions of concern. These regions have received less than 60% of normal precipitation over 3 or more months. Impacts include increased number of forest fires, water restrictions and agricultural losses. Livestock producers in the Central regions of the province have reported significant feed and water shortages. Forage production in this region has fallen to 40 to 60 per cent of normal. To compound the issue, wildfires also reduced native grazing areas.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The Peace River region continued to struggle with poor soil moisture, low water supplies and poor agricultural production although late month rainfall and forecasted rain into early October may improve the situation. Municipal water restrictions were still in effect, due to reduced supplies. Most tributaries of the Peace River continued to be near or at record minimum low flows for this time of year. Since March 1 (6 months), this region has received 60 per cent of average rainfall approximately 150 mm. As conditions continued to degrade, much of the region is now classified as a “Severe Drought” or D2 classification with a few localized regions of “Extreme Drought” or D3.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Although the North American Drought monitor does not currently assess drought conditions in the Canadian Territories it is of interest that the region around Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories has received very little rainfall throughout the summer months resulting in significant water shortages heading in to the winter season. Lack of rainfall and reservoir storage has led to concern that the region will not have the water capacity to continue to generate hydroelectricity throughout the winter period. The region has also had one of its worst forest fire season in decades. The N.W.T.'s Department of Environment and Natural Resources spent \$55 million fighting fires this season — eight times the amount of money budgeted.

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