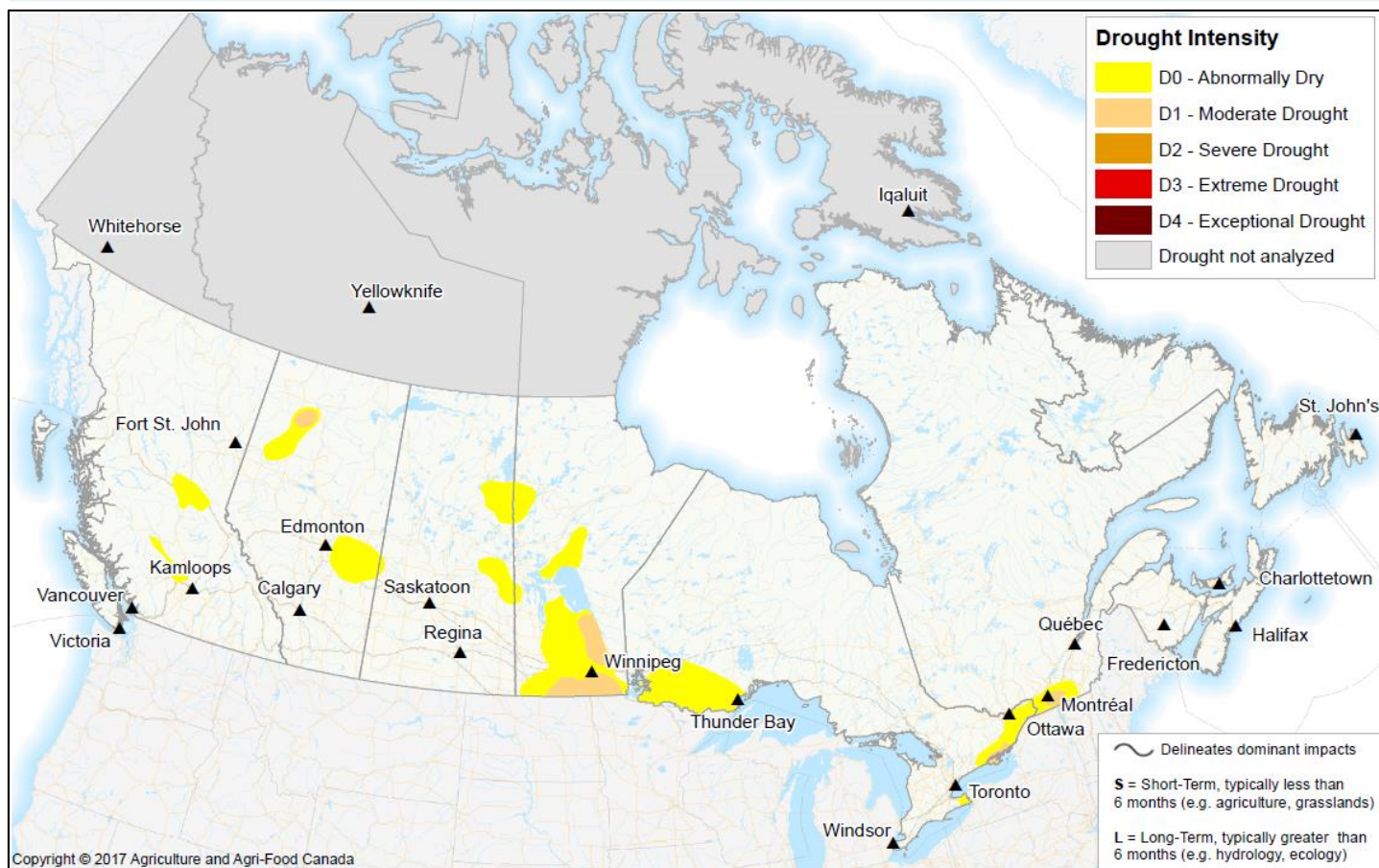


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2015



Drought conditions across Canada remained fairly static through January, as frozen ground and snow accumulation prevented any significant changes in soil moisture.

## Pacific Region (BC)

Nevertheless, British Columbia experienced a significant amount of precipitation and temperatures 2 to 5 degrees above the monthly mean. These conditions alleviated some of the Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets in the province's interior. On the other side of the Rocky Mountains, Alberta reported more than 15cm of new snow along its western half and into its northern regions. While the snowfall alleviated some Abnormally Dry (D0) areas that had developed through December, a pocket of long-term moderate drought lingers in the Peace



River Region of the province. This is the result of long-term accumulative dry conditions which will take considerable precipitation to resolve.

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

The rest of the Prairies experienced a much drier month, with precipitation 10 to 20mm below the monthly average. Drought conditions in Saskatchewan were largely unaffected by the dry weather as their soils remain saturated from a wet fall. Southern Manitoba entered the winter with far drier conditions, leaving the area susceptible to drought. As a result of this vulnerability, a pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) has extended northwards from the Midwestern United States through the beginning of this winter. With much of Manitoba recording less than 10mm of precipitation during January, this area has continued to degrade, and the Moderate Drought has reached as far north as Manitoba's Interlake region. Considerable snow fall throughout the rest of the winter will be needed to recharge soil moisture with spring run-off.

## **Central Region (ON, QC)**

Conditions in Ontario and Quebec were for the most part moderate through January. The region experienced precipitation levels which were 60 to 85% of normal and temperatures 2 to 3 degrees below the monthly mean. While these conditions did not exacerbate the Abnormally Dry (D0) patch along the Quebec City-Windsor Corridor, they were also not significant enough to alleviate it. Snow-fall in the coming months will likely be sufficient to recharge the area's soil-moisture.