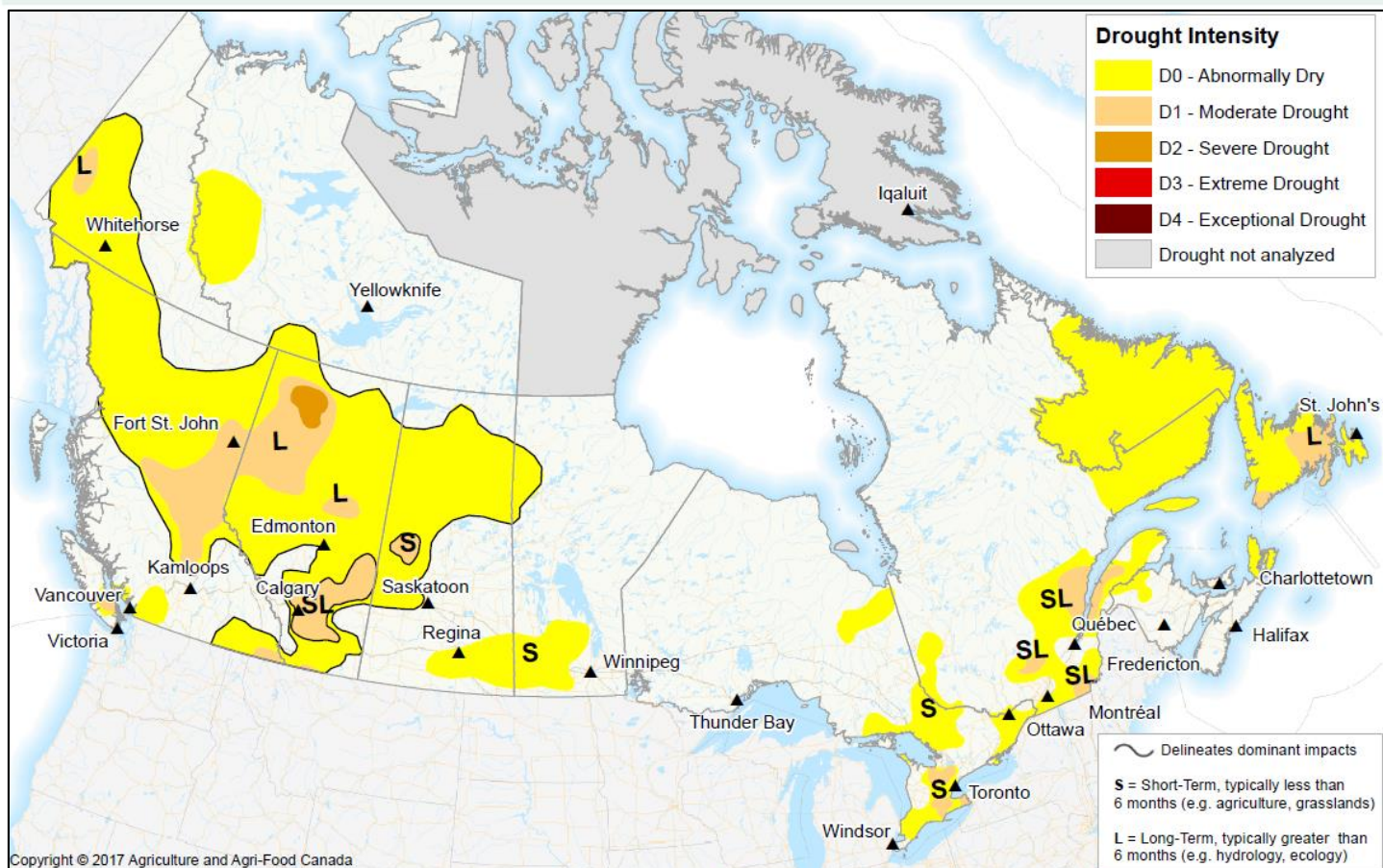


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of December 31, 2015



Drought conditions continued to improve across Canada throughout December. Despite well above normal temperatures through much of the country, precipitation was also being reported as adequate. Significant rainfall and snow pack in British Columbia reduced drought conditions, specifically in southern regions plagued by abnormally warm and dry conditions throughout the previous season. Although conditions have improved over the areas of greatest concern, some regions of the country continue to receive below normal precipitation. Based on the time of year, many of these regions are not of concern, but if abnormally dry conditions continue throughout the remainder of the winter, these regions will begin to be watched much more closely.

Pacific Region (BC)



Throughout December, much of B.C. has seen improvement in drought conditions, but more specifically within the southern regions. Precipitation levels measured by snow pillows indicate conditions to be near average, if not above, for much of the southern regions. Conditions in the Okanagan valley and south of Kamloops improved quite significantly, to the point where drought and abnormally dry conditions have been dropped entirely. While the drought still lingers on Vancouver Island, the situation around Vancouver is showing signs of improvement. The area around Cranbrook in southeastern British Columbia improved, where upwards of 120 mm of precipitation above normal has fallen since September. Despite the improvements in the southern portion of the province, an area around Prince George continues to experience drought, with slightly worsening conditions.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Much of the drought occurring in the prairie region remains relatively unchanged for the month of December, however there has been some locational shifts and slight intensity changes. The Moderate Drought around Edmonton and High Level shifted more towards the Peace River region, closer to the Alberta-B.C. border. As well, there is an area of depreciating conditions between Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatoon, where 45 mm below normal precipitation is being reported from the previous few months; this equates to about 40% of average precipitation for this time of year. While conditions around the foothills have seen improvement from good precipitation over the previous 60 – 90 days, a region east of Calgary continues to experience Moderate Drought conditions. Overall conditions throughout Saskatchewan have seen a slight decline for the past month as well. Much of the north has seen below-normal precipitation, leading to abnormally dry conditions stretching across most of the region. A pocket of dry conditions has also emerged in the southeastern portion of the province, reaching into Manitoba, as a result of a decline in precipitation over the previous 60 days. The southwestern corner of the province is also an area to watch as it is showing signs of declining conditions, but not yet drought.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Throughout much of Ontario and Québec, conditions have not varied significantly from November's assessment. There has been some improvement around Lake Superior, where stations have reported higher than average precipitation, leading to the dry conditions being dropped. There has, however, been some decline seen throughout southern Ontario and Québec, where pockets of Moderate Drought are showing up. Brantford, north of Toronto and around Niagara Falls have particularly dry conditions being reported, along with a pocket near Sherbrooke and northwest of Trois-Rivières. The Moderate Drought continues to persist throughout the Saguenay region as well.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In the Atlantic region, Cape Breton has shown signs of improvement, where Moderate Drought is no longer being reported. Newfoundland Island experienced worsening conditions, however, as a D1 continues to show in the southern portion of the island, and much of the remainder of the province has been added to the abnormally dry designation.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Northern regions of the country have remained very stable with small changes in abnormally dry conditions. The area surrounding Yellowknife has shown improvement, resulting in the drop of abnormally dry conditions for the region. There has been, however, a slight decrease in conditions along the Yukon and Northwest Territories border, leading to the designation of a D0. Much of the existing conditions, including the D1 in the Yukon Territory, continue to persist for the month of December.