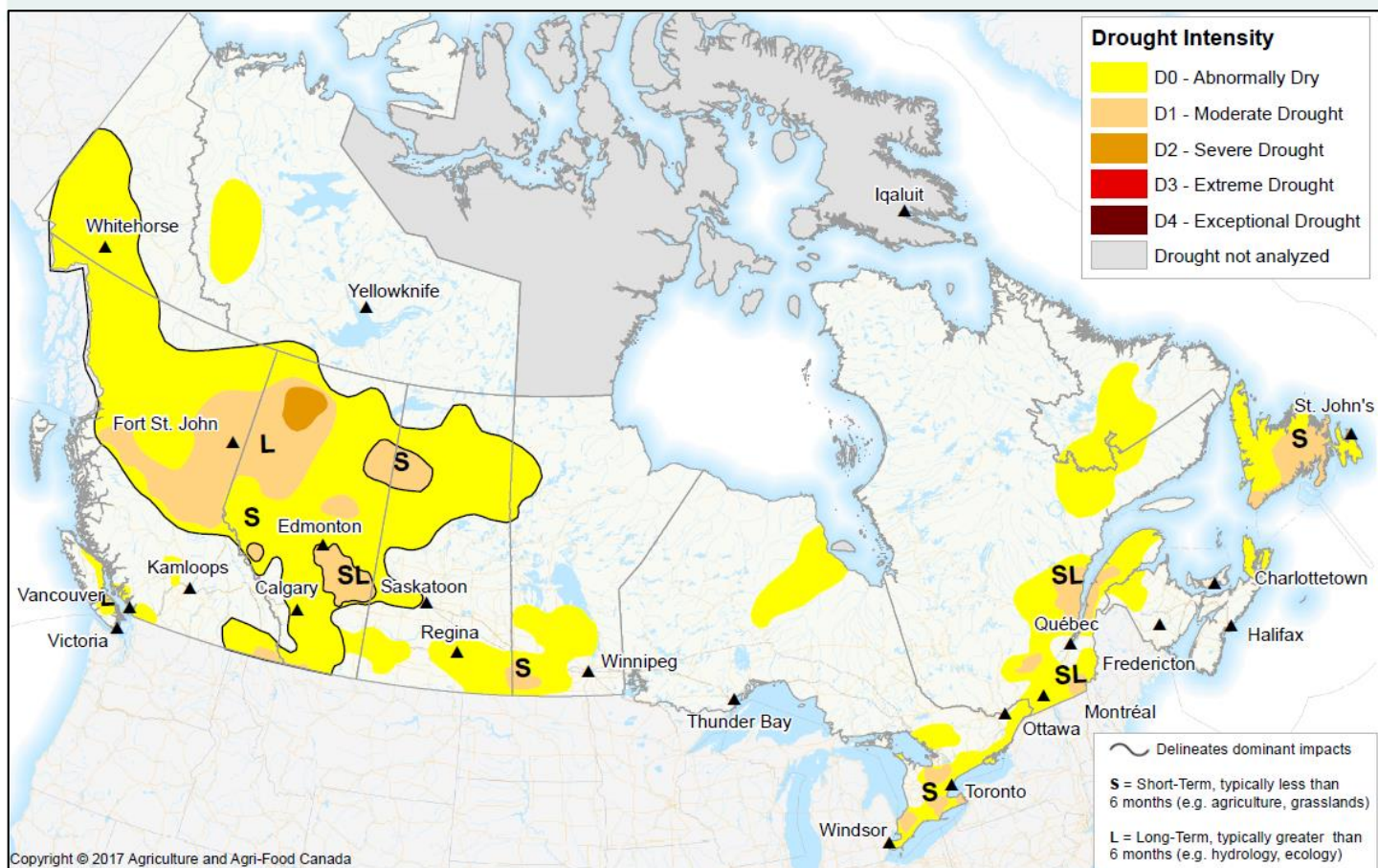


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2016



Overall conditions across much of Canada have not drastically changed as we headed into the new year. Western Canada saw a shift in extent of both Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. An expansion of drought in northern portions of British Columbia and Alberta was the most notable change, with improvement seen in the southern portions of B.C., changes throughout south-central Alberta and into Saskatchewan and small areas throughout Eastern Canada.

## Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions across B.C. did not see a substantial change for the month of January, 2016. South-central parts of the province experienced some slight improvement, leading to D0 conditions being pulled back or dropped. However, a different story persisted for more central portions,



where the D1 patch has been extended westward due to record low snow as well as low stream flow levels; this trend continued to push slightly northward into bordering Alberta due to below-average, once in 50-years snowpack.

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

As with B.C., minimal changes were made in the Prairie Province. The D1 area in the northwestern corner of Alberta shifted to include a significant portion of northeastern B.C. near Fort St. John, with the pocket of Severe Drought (D2) remaining near High Level. Conditions in parts of the northeastern side of the province, however, saw slight degradation, leading to the emergence of D0 conditions for the area, reaching into Saskatchewan. In the south, the problem area outlined in the month prior had since seen some improvement, but this area of D1 shifted slightly northeastward towards the Saskatchewan border. Precipitation continued to be low in the southeastern corner along with below-average snow pack being reported, leading to an extension of D0 from Alberta into southwestern Saskatchewan. Spring runoff is also forecasted to be much below-average for this area, but this could change depending on precipitation received in the next few months. There was a slight improvement to conditions north of North Battleford, resulting in a drop in D1 and D0 altogether. Satellite and precipitation data indicated that an area north of this region received quite low precipitation throughout the previous six months; this has resulted in a D1 designation for the area. Furthermore, the D0 area reported in the southeastern portion of the province, which extended into Manitoba, has shifted slightly over the past month. Parts of this region have experienced prolonging dry conditions, leading to the development of a small pocket of D1 west of Brandon.

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

In Ontario, D0 areas have been pushed both north- and southward of the Ontario-Quebec border. Recent precipitation between North Bay and Ottawa further improved conditions, dropping the D0 area that extended to Elliot Lake and west of Val-d'Or, Québec. Unfortunately, the dry conditions persisted south of Sarnia, as well as between Peterborough and Cornwall, thus expanding the D0. Similar conditions to the previous month persisted in Québec for January. The drought in the Gaspé region remains, as more of the peninsula becomes included in the D0 designation. This further extended into northern parts of New Brunswick, as the area showed signs of continued dryness. Extremely Low precipitation has been reported west of Montréal for the previous few months, which has led to the expansion of D0 in the region. The D1 area around Sherbrooke also continued to persist due to similar circumstances

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

Newfoundland continued to show persistent distress, with areas along the southern coast showing Record Dry to Extremely Low precipitation since November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. As such, the D1

continued on the island with a slight expansion towards areas more inland. However, dryness that was previously reported through much of Labrador was cut back given improved conditions from recent satellite-derived data.

## **Northern Region (YT, NT)**

Satellite-derived data has also indicated improvement throughout the territories. This includes the D0 that stretched from the border of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories towards the Mackenzie River, an area in the Yukon Territory bordering with Alaska, as well as a portion extending from northwestern Alberta. Thus, the D0 conditions in these regions have been reduced and the pocket of D1 in western Yukon was eliminated.