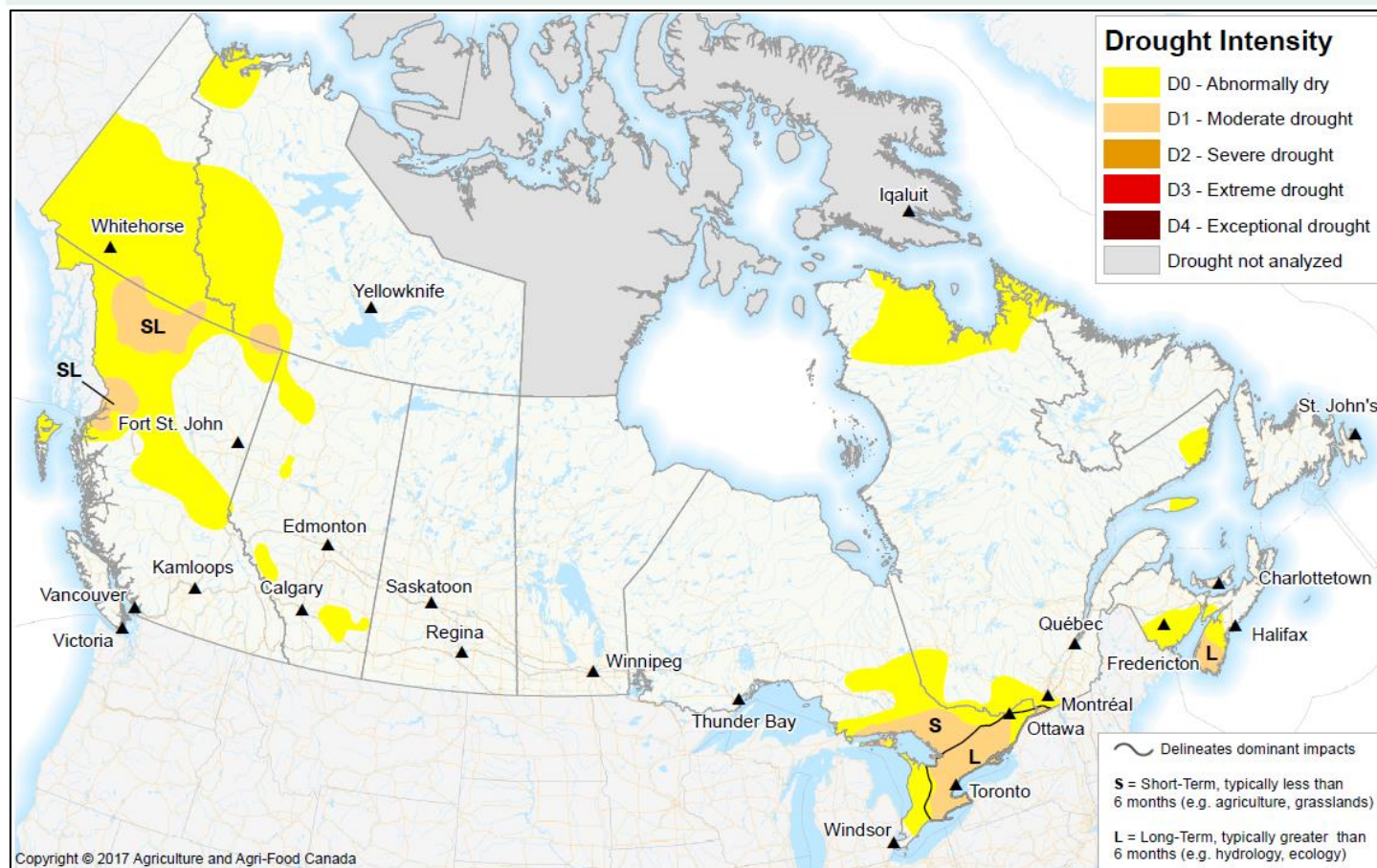


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of December 31, 2016



Drought conditions across Canada remained fairly static through December, as frozen ground and snow accumulation prevented any significant changes in soil moisture. Below average temperatures this month were reported across the country as the country settled deeper into winter. Eastern Canada benefitted from normal to above normal amounts of precipitation which improved local drought conditions; while much of western Canada experienced a precipitation deficit. The majority of remaining drought concerns, specifically in northern British Columbia, southern Ontario, and southern Nova Scotia, are due to long term precipitation deficit.

Pacific Region (BC)



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Drought conditions in British Columbia remained generally unchanged in December. Areas of concerns were confined to the northern half of the province. The Severe Drought (D2) pocket north of Prince Rupert was removed due to improved streamflow, although a pocket of long-term Moderate Drought (D1) lingers in this region. Snow pillow data indicated that northwestern B.C. had received record low snow in the month of December; hence the D1 pocket along the southern border of Yukon Territory also persisted. Satellite and radar derived data suggested continued dryness in northeastern B.C.; thus, a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket was added.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The western Prairie region had an abnormally dry couple months; however this did not result in the development of any drought concerns. An Abnormally Dry pocket increased slightly in Southern Alberta, representing precipitation deficits over the fall and early winter period. The Abnormally Dry regions in northwestern Alberta persisted due to long term precipitation deficit in this area. Satellite and radar derived data indicated dryness around Peace River and between Jasper and Banff; thus two additional D0 pockets developed in these areas. Eastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba received above normal precipitation in December which added to spring flood risks, as their soils remained saturated from a wet summer and early fall.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Portions of the Central region of Canada received much-needed precipitation this month; however drought in southern Ontario persisted. All Severe Drought (D2) concerns in this region were alleviated, but a large Moderate Drought (D1) region persisted over the southern part of the province due to long-term precipitation deficit and unchanged soil moisture levels. Southern Ontario had a very dry month and Abnormally Dry conditions have returned to portions that we previously removed from the assessment. The province of Québec benefitted from the increased precipitation in December. The long-term moderate drought conditions in and around Sherbrooke improved significantly. Northern Québec also saw some improvement, and the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in this region was reduced.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Above average precipitation throughout December and exceptional streamflow led to improved drought conditions across Atlantic Canada. All drought concerns were alleviated, with the exception of a small lingering long-term Moderate Drought (D1) pocket in southern Nova Scotia. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in New Brunswick improved, and were restricted to the southern half of the province.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Conditions in the northern region remained relatively unchanged throughout December. Dryness persisted across much of Yukon Territory and southwestern Northwest Territories, with many areas experiencing less than 50 per cent of the fourteen-year average precipitation. Due to this, some pockets along the northern border of British Columbia degraded to Moderate Drought (D1).