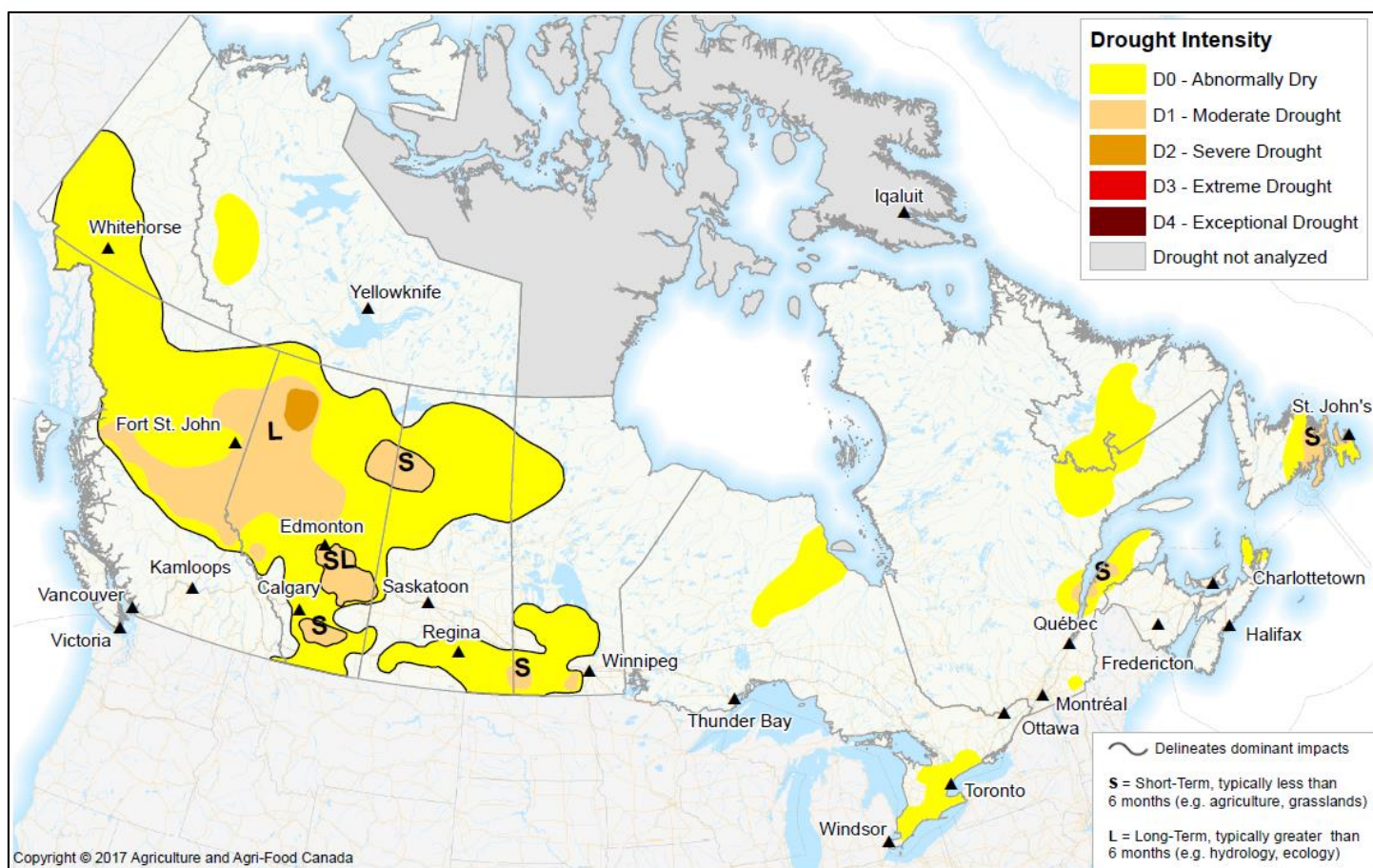


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 29, 2016



Throughout the month of February, many parts of Canada received normal to above normal precipitation that resulted in improvement in overall conditions. Significant improvement occurred in Central and Eastern Canada, specifically where many regions received monthly precipitation in excess of 150% of normal. Parts of western Canada have also seen improved conditions, especially throughout southern regions of British Columbia. The one exception was the southern Prairies, where well above normal temperatures and very low precipitation accumulation continued.

Pacific Region (BC)



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With above normal precipitation, good snow pack and streamflow across much of the southern part of the province, B.C. continued to show significant improvement. Drought conditions impacted this region significantly during the past summer, where much of the region saw Severe Drought (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions. Based on above normal snow accumulations and improved stream flow, the remaining Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions have been scaled back to only include the most southeastern tip of the province. However, the Moderate Drought (D1) continues to persist in parts of northern B.C., where streamflow levels were well below normal, if not Record Low, in certain regions. These dry regions extended towards Alberta, with the exception of a pocket of D1 that was pulled back from Fort St. John in the wake of improved conditions in the past month.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Throughout the month of February, abnormally warm temperatures reduced the snow pack in southern regions of the Prairies; central and northern regions, however, began to receive some much needed precipitation. Drought conditions across the three provinces remained fairly consistent, with some degradation in the southern areas. There was minimal snow cover across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and in many regions in the southern quarter of both provinces; the only remaining snow was found to be in tree lines or on northern slopes of valleys. Although soil moisture was indicated as sufficient given precipitation from the previous fall season, this region undoubtedly dried out due to exposure; this, in combination with below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures, has led to the creation of a D1 area east of Calgary. In southern Saskatchewan, the D0 designation also reached nearly all the way from the Manitoba border towards Alberta. Across central portions of the two provinces, there was some slight improvement with increased snowfall. Snowfall throughout the North Battleford region of west-central Saskatchewan resulted in the reduction of D0 and D1 in the area. Changes to the northern portion of the Prairie Provinces were minimal: the area of D2 to D3 remained, with a slight improvement around Fort Vermillion. An area in northwestern Alberta recorded further drying conditions in February, which has led to the expansion of D1. Across northern regions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, satellite-derived data seemed to indicate adequate precipitation, but streamflow readings recorded levels to be Very Much Below average. As a result, the D0 conditions have expanded just slightly northward in Saskatchewan, and east into Manitoba.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Over the 29 day period, much of southern Ontario, as well as southern Québec, received plenty of precipitation in the form of large storm events. Ottawa, in particular, recorded a one day record of 51 cm of snowfall on February 16, 2016. Due to these large events, the D0 and D1 across much of the region have been drastically reduced, with only an area from Toronto to Sarnia, remaining as D0. A similar trend continued into Québec, where much of the D0 and D1 conditions were improved and thus, dropped. Only a small pocket of D0 remains surrounding

Sherbrooke, as the area continued to suggest drier conditions, as well as an area around Trois-Pistoles, extending across parts of the Gaspé Peninsula. Despite the precipitation events across much of the southern portion of the province, this area continued to experience D0 and D1 conditions.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Across the Atlantic Region, conditions continued to improve though not as drastically as other regions; the D0 area across northeastern New Brunswick was pulled back almost entirely. There has also been improvement across western parts of Newfoundland, but longer-term drought conditions remained for southern and eastern portions of the island.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

No significant changes were recorded for much of the northern region, as satellite-derived data appeared consistent to January's assessment. There was a small region along the Mackenzie River that indicated adequate precipitation and as a result, the patch of D0 conditions has been pulled away slightly. Other than this, there was no need for any changes.