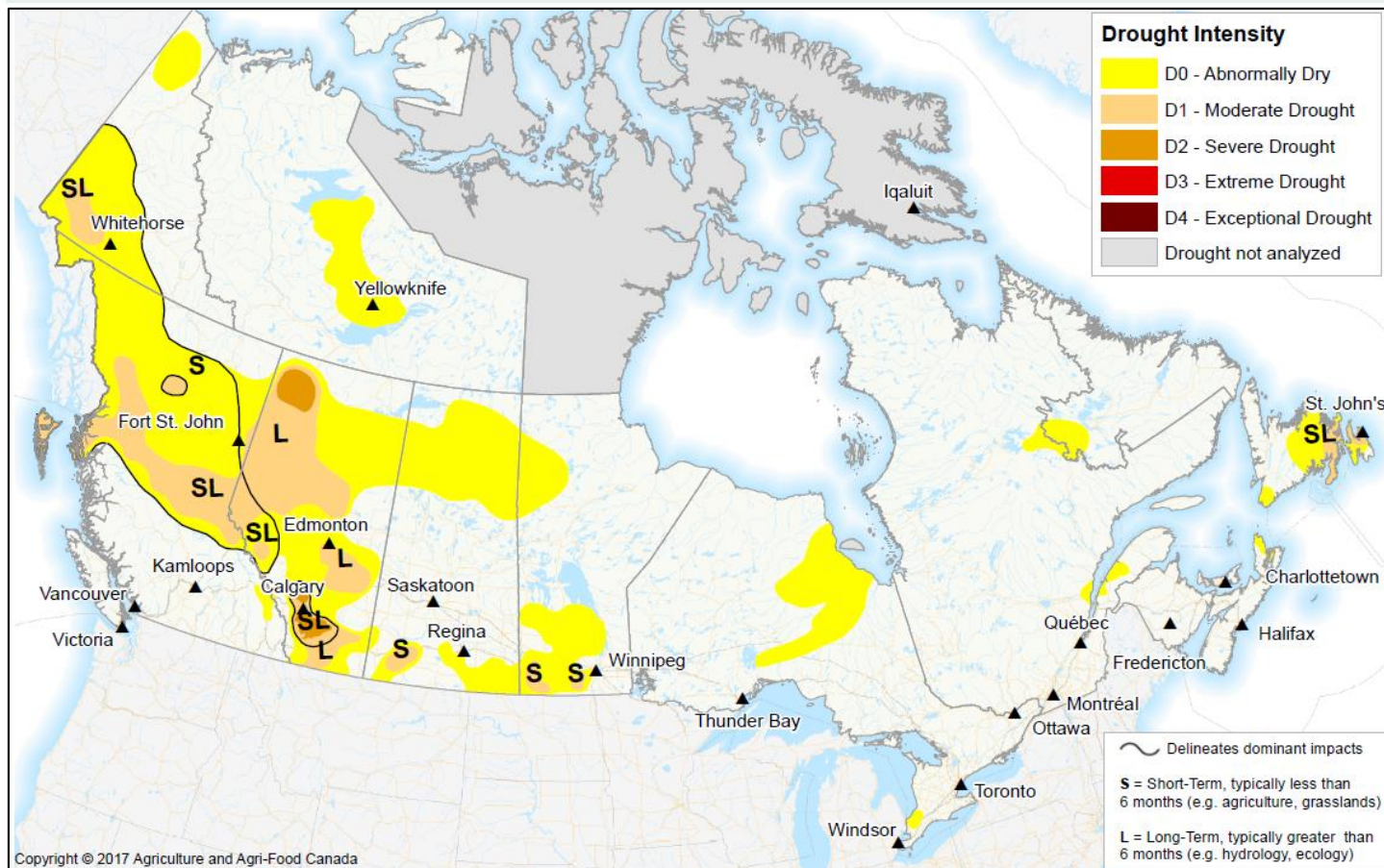


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2016



The trend of improvement continued across much of the country throughout March, encompassing most of central and eastern Canada. A few exceptions of this are within the Prairie Provinces, specifically Alberta, as well as central and northern British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Long-term drought continues to linger in parts of northern Alberta, while southern Alberta and central B.C. experienced further short-term drying. On the other hand, Ontario and Québec saw more than adequate precipitation, leading to the further reduction in Drought and Dry conditions across the region. While Atlantic Canada received plenty of precipitation in March, longer-term impacts are still apparent for the region.

Pacific Region (BC)



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The north-south divide of conditions remained in place throughout British Columbia for the month of March. Even with the projected worry of drought returning, precipitation in the southern half of the province was adequate. The northern half, however, continued to experience drought conditions, with some slight improvement only in the northeastern portion. As a result of drought indices reporting dry conditions extending as far back as 12 months, the Moderate Drought (D1) from Prince George towards Terrace has been extended further west towards Prince Rupert and onto the Queen Charlotte Islands. D1 was also extended northward due to Record Low snow pack data being recorded. The area around Fort St. John and Dawson Creek saw improvements according to recent Percent of Normal Precipitation data, resulting in the D1 being pulled back.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The Prairies experienced a variety of conditions during the past month, depending on the region. While recent data indicated improvements to the northern portion of Alberta, Moderate to Severe Drought (D1-D2) remained as a result of long-term impacts going back 12-24 months. Alternatively, improvement occurred along much of the eastern side of the province due to adequate precipitation over the previous 31 days; D1 was dropped around Fort McMurray as a result. A system southeast of Edmonton dropped 4-10 mm over one week in March, which provided some much needed moisture for the region and allowed for minimal improvement in conditions. However, conditions south of the area remained in a D1 state. Conditions unfortunately deteriorated for much of the southern half of the province, where lack of snow cover continued to expose fields and soil. North and south of Calgary, along the foothills, 1 in 25 to 1 in 100 year conditions resulted in the formation of two pockets of D2. These dry conditions are considered to be short-term given that precipitation over the course of the winter has not been sufficient for this area overall, but is an area to watch for long-term drought development. The drought story for Saskatchewan and Manitoba changed very slightly compared to Alberta. Minimal changes were made for most of Saskatchewan, with the greatest difference being deterioration around Swift Current and improvement around Regina, as a result of 6-10 mm of precipitation received from March 17-23. A similar situation occurred in Manitoba, where a pocket of D1 was shifted slightly due to updated data, but otherwise the province remained unchanged.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Continuing from last month, Ontario and Québec saw significant improvements. Southern Ontario, previously blanketed with an area of D0 and pockets of D1, continued to improve through March, with ample precipitation over the previous 3 months. This has resulted in further pulling back of the D0; only a small pocket of D0 conditions remained around Sarnia. However, satellite-derived data indicated an increased patch of dryness in northern Ontario reaching from James Bay towards Lake Nipigon; as such, an area of D0 conditions was expanded. Québec has also experienced improved conditions overall, with the most significant

change made along the Gaspé Peninsula: an area of D0 was drastically reduced and the D1 was eliminated entirely. The D0 area surrounding Sherbrooke was also dropped following a month of improved precipitation.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

The Atlantic region overall received sufficient precipitation over the previous few months. However, a pocket of D0 conditions remained in place for the northern-most portion of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, extending towards the southwest corner of Newfoundland. Even with adequate precipitation over the past few months, longer-term dry conditions still existed in southeast Newfoundland as well; for this reason, the D1 and D0 remained.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Similar to B.C., northern regions of Canada also experienced deteriorating conditions. The southwestern portion of Yukon reported below-normal precipitation; significantly low percentages compared to normal were reported in Haines Junction and Burwash, with 44% and 6% below normal precipitation reported, respectively. Given this implication, the existing area of D0 conditions remained and a patch of D1 was designated just west of Whitehorse. Precipitation in the northern portion of the Yukon was also low, which led to an area of D0 developing as well. The conditions for the Northwest Territories has changed only slightly; the previously-reported area of D0 conditions no longer shows up as an area of concern, but has instead moved between Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake.