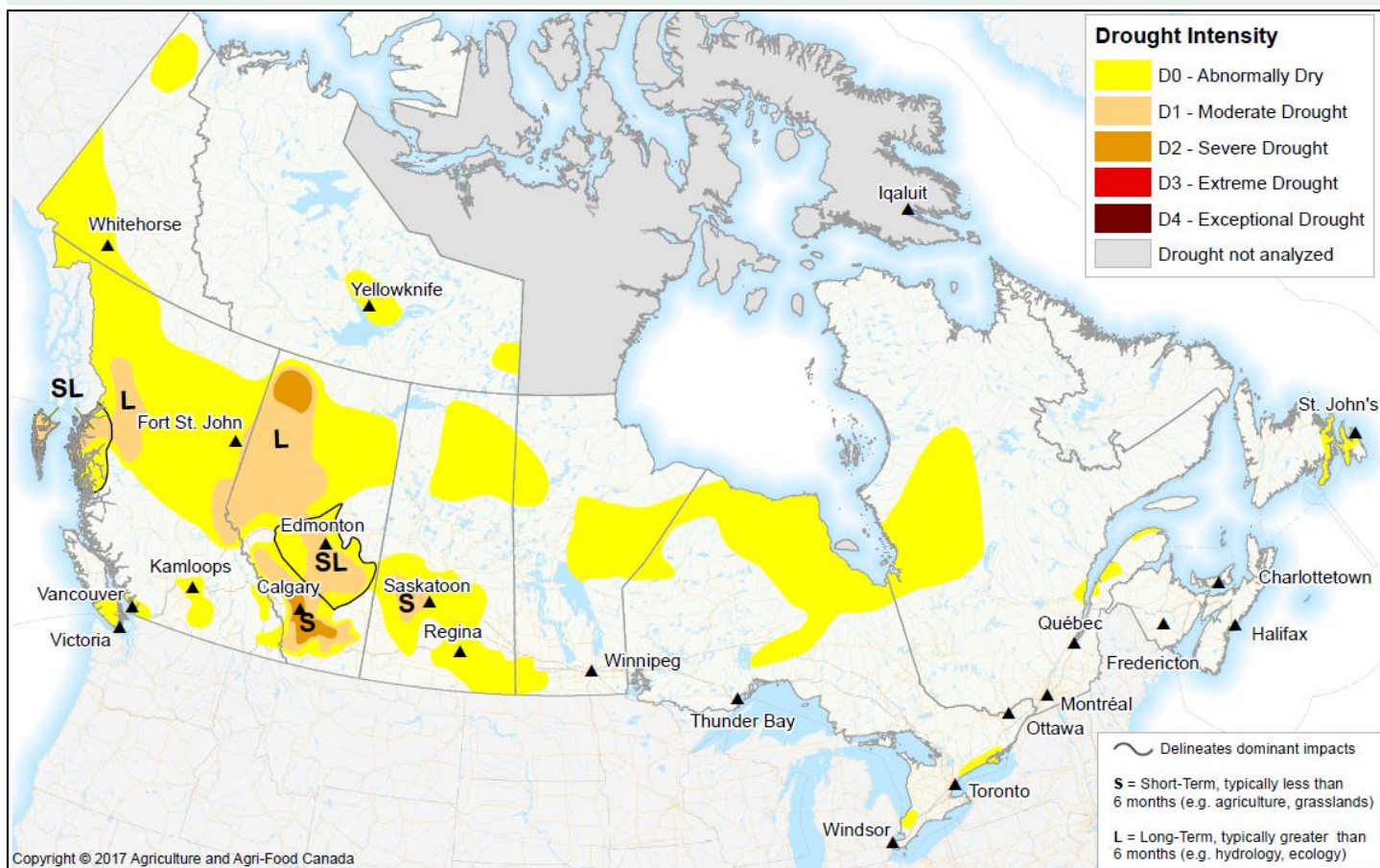


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2016



The East-West divide of drought conditions across the country remained tightly in place for the month of April. While eastern Canada and southern Ontario and Québec saw only minor changes, significant drought has become a concern for the western half of the country. Alberta remained the province of greatest concern, where overall conditions across much of the province remained quite dry. The addition of high winds and temperatures exasperated the pre-existing drought conditions, which have led to a greater area of Moderate to Severe (D1 to D2) drought being classified. Dry conditions began to emerge as a possible concern for parts of B.C. as well, specifically in southern and northern regions. The concern for wildfires also grew for the month of April across both Alberta and B.C.

Pacific Region (BC)



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Over the past month, precipitation has been very low across many parts of B.C., with southern portions receiving between 20 and 30% of average precipitation and low overall snowpack in northern regions of the province. Above average temperatures have resulted in much earlier snowmelt for both lower and mid-level snowpack; as a result, streamflow has been much above average for April. This early melt, though temporarily contributing to a high streamflow rate, is still a point of concern for the possible development of dry conditions. Particular areas of concern in the south include Kelowna, Kamloops and Cranbrook, as well as southern Vancouver Island and Vancouver. In these regions, areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions have emerged. Parts of central B.C. showed slight improvement in precipitation over the past few months, which led to the improvement from D1 to D0 conditions around Prince George towards Burns Lake. However, concern still remained for northeastern and northwestern parts of B.C., where wildfires began to emerge as a potential risk.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Alberta remained the main province of concern across the Prairies. The province experienced much above normal temperatures throughout April; coupled with reports of high, gusting winds and very low precipitation, this has resulted in continued drought concerns across most of Alberta. From April 23-26, 10-20 mm of precipitation fell in the southeastern corner; this moisture, while much needed, was unfortunately not sufficient and dry conditions re-emerged shortly after the event. Given these conditions, an area of D2 persisted around Calgary and towards Lethbridge and Brooks. Separate pockets of D1 were also joined to stretch from southern Alberta towards Edmonton, and north towards the Peace River region. Unfortunately, conditions have also depreciated around the foothills; as a result, the area has been classified as D1. Dry conditions in the north have also led to the growing concern of wildfires developing across the region. Conditions have shifted slightly for the remainder of the Prairies. The southeastern corner of Saskatchewan and southwestern corner of Manitoba have seen some improvement, leading to the drop of D1 conditions, with a smaller area of D0 conditions lingering. However, precipitation was lacking for a pocket around Saskatoon and North Battleford, towards Rosetown, where 10 mm or less of precipitation fell in April. This led to the development of D1, with an increase in surrounding D0 conditions. Further north, wildfires remained a concern but precipitation was adequate in the La Loche region. By the end of April, streamflow was also adequate in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which has led to the improvement of dry conditions. Precipitation remained normal to above normal for the southeastern corner of Manitoba.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Minimal changes occurred across eastern Canada. Not including a small area of D0 conditions showing up north of Lake Ontario, Southern Ontario and Québec did not experience a

significant shift in conditions. The area surrounding Trois-Pistoles, Québec remained in a D0 for the month of April as well; further dryness also developed around Gaspé.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

The Atlantic region remained consistent with the conditions of the previous month, with some improvement along Cape Breton and southwestern Newfoundland. Although dry conditions and low soil moisture have been reported for some areas, only a patch of D0 remained around St. John's due to longer-term impacts.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Dry conditions shifted slightly for northern regions across the country. The Yukon Territory saw anomalously high precipitation in a large area close to the border with the Northwest Territories; as a result, D0 conditions were pulled back and the D1 near Whitehorse was dropped. Further east, however, dry conditions began to emerge from northeastern Manitoba towards northern Québec resulting in D) conditions expanding in this region.