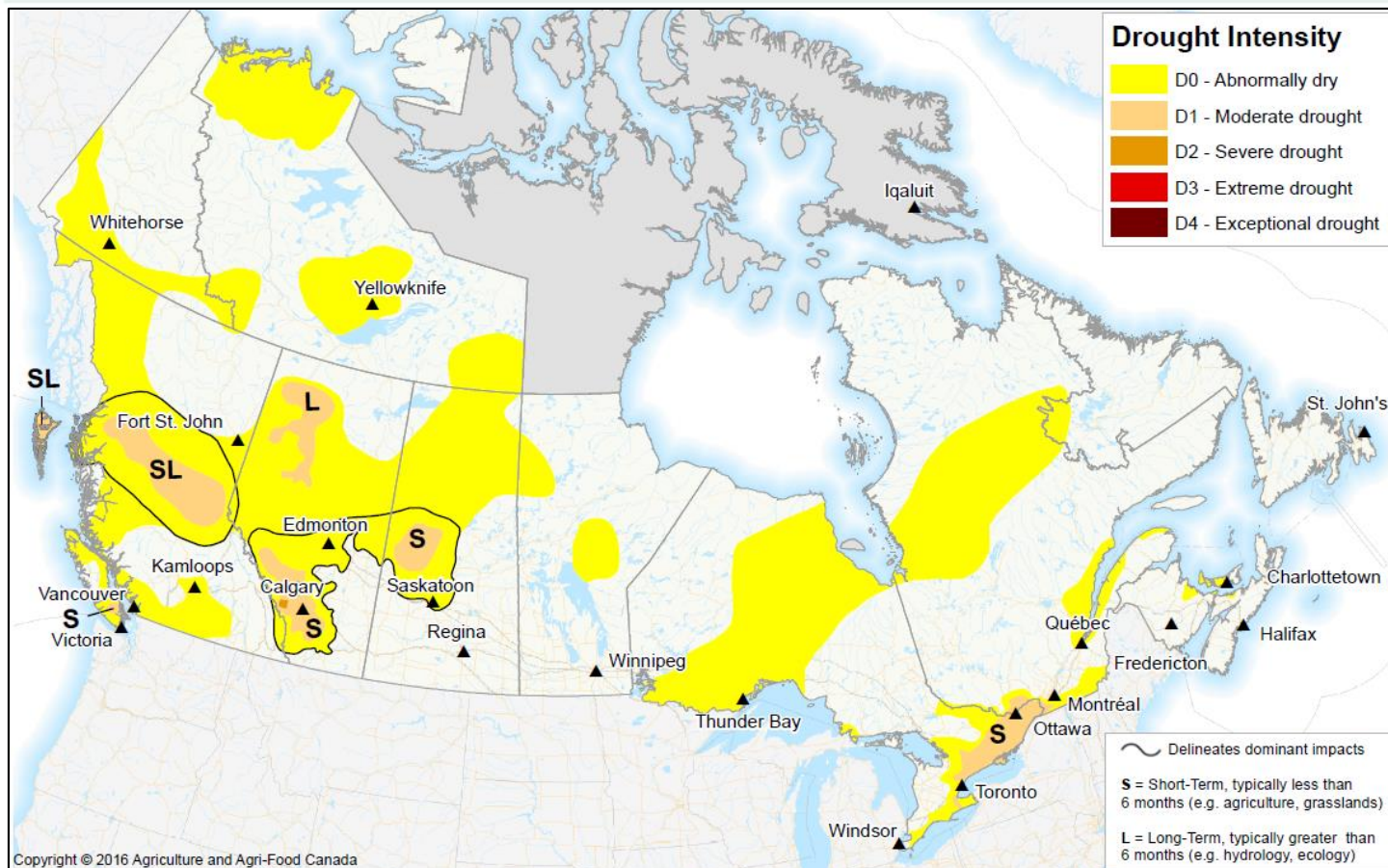


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2016



The month of May brought a shift of conditions across the country; the Prairie region bode well overall while parts of B.C. and southern Ontario and Québec experienced deteriorating conditions. Large precipitation events brought much needed moisture across much of Alberta, Saskatchewan as well as Manitoba, with some regions receiving up to 125 mm of rain within the month. Abnormally Dry and Moderate Drought areas still persisted, but nonetheless improved significantly from the previous month in terms of both intensity and areal extent of drought. Shorter-term dryness emerged across southern B.C., and continued to pose a concern across central parts of the province as well. Southern Ontario and Québec saw a significantly drier month, with a large portion receiving less than 40% of normal precipitation. As of May 31, less than 12% of the agricultural land in Canada had received precipitation below the 20th percentile since April 1



Pacific Region (BC)

The province of British Columbia saw degrading conditions for the month of May, including areas across the southwestern and central parts of the province. Vancouver Island and the lower mainland region saw a particularly marked difference in conditions, where precipitation percentiles ranked as being between below the 10th percentile for the past two months. Abnormally warm temperatures in conjunction with a very dry and early spring saw the snowpack disappearing quickly and resulted in very low streamflow and reservoir levels for the end of May. Many of the streams in the southern portion of Vancouver Island recorded record lows. Because this region is heavily reliant on winter snow fall for summer water supplies, there was great concern for significant impacts to occur through the summer; these areas were depicted as D0 and D1 for this month's assessment. The interior portion of British Columbia also had a very dry month with below normal precipitation, low streamflow levels and above normal temperatures; as a result, the Kamloops and Kelowna region's Abnormally Dry (D0) area was expanded. Further north, central areas of B.C. continued to experience low precipitation and very low streamflow values. As such, Moderate Drought (D1) was extended to include an area from Prince George through to Terrace. Slight improvement was seen around Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, where adequate moisture was received.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Overall conditions across the Prairie Provinces improved significantly throughout the month of May. Only 10.7% of the Agricultural Region was considered to be below the 40th percentile. Many areas across the southern Prairies received ample precipitation, with a particularly large rain event occurring in the last 7-10 days of the month. This particular event dropped 30-40 mm over a large region with localized amounts of up to 80-90 mm in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba. The Swift Current and Edmonton-Edson areas also received up to 125 mm during the month of May as well. These large precipitation events helped to alleviate concerns of drought conditions in much of the region, replenishing soil moisture and water supply. While rainfall throughout the prairie region in May significantly improved the conditions, there were areas within the Prairies that remained in a D0, D1 and Severe Drought (D2). The remaining D0, D1 and D2 regions have improved, though not fully recovered from the precipitation deficits and drought impacts. The area around Calgary and northward towards Jasper is one such area where a couple pockets of D2 and one larger area of D1 remained. A pocket of D1 was also shifted slightly in Saskatchewan, now reaching further north from North Battleford towards Meadow Lake, where an area of less than 40% of normal precipitation developed. The situation in the northern portion of the Prairies continued to persist as Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, spreading further north to include Uranium City. However, northern Alberta saw improvement over the past month which has led to a significant downgrade of drought conditions in the area.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Dry conditions persisted across southern regions of Ontario and Québec through May. Conditions across southern Ontario depreciated quite drastically through the month of May: nearly 90% of the Agricultural Region was below the 40th percentile class. This region reported only 50-75 mm of precipitation since April 1, 2016. Thus, this large area was downgraded to D0 conditions, with a large pocket of D1 developing around Lake Ontario, from Toronto towards Ottawa. Some of the dry conditions extended slightly into southern Québec as well, including Sherbrooke, Québec City and north towards Baie-Comeau. Lower precipitation was also recorded across greater parts of Northern Ontario and Québec, which led to an expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions across the two provinces, stretching down towards Thunder Bay and Lake of the Woods.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

While moisture over the winter was more than adequate across much of the Atlantic region, short term dryness was reported through parts of the region. Since April 1, 2016, nearly 48% of the region was below the 40th percentile, with 5% below the 20th percentile since April 1. As a result, this small area encompassing two thirds of Prince Edward Island and into parts of New Brunswick was placed in a pocket of D0.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Minimal changes were made to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions across the Yukon and Northwest Territories; a small pocket around Yellowknife was expanded due to low precipitation reported. An area was also extended from Whitehorse towards Fort Liard as a result of high low precipitation and Drought Codes according to the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System. Satellite-derived precipitation data indicated an area in northern Northwest Territories received between 0-20 mm of precipitation for the month of May, resulting in a D0 classification.