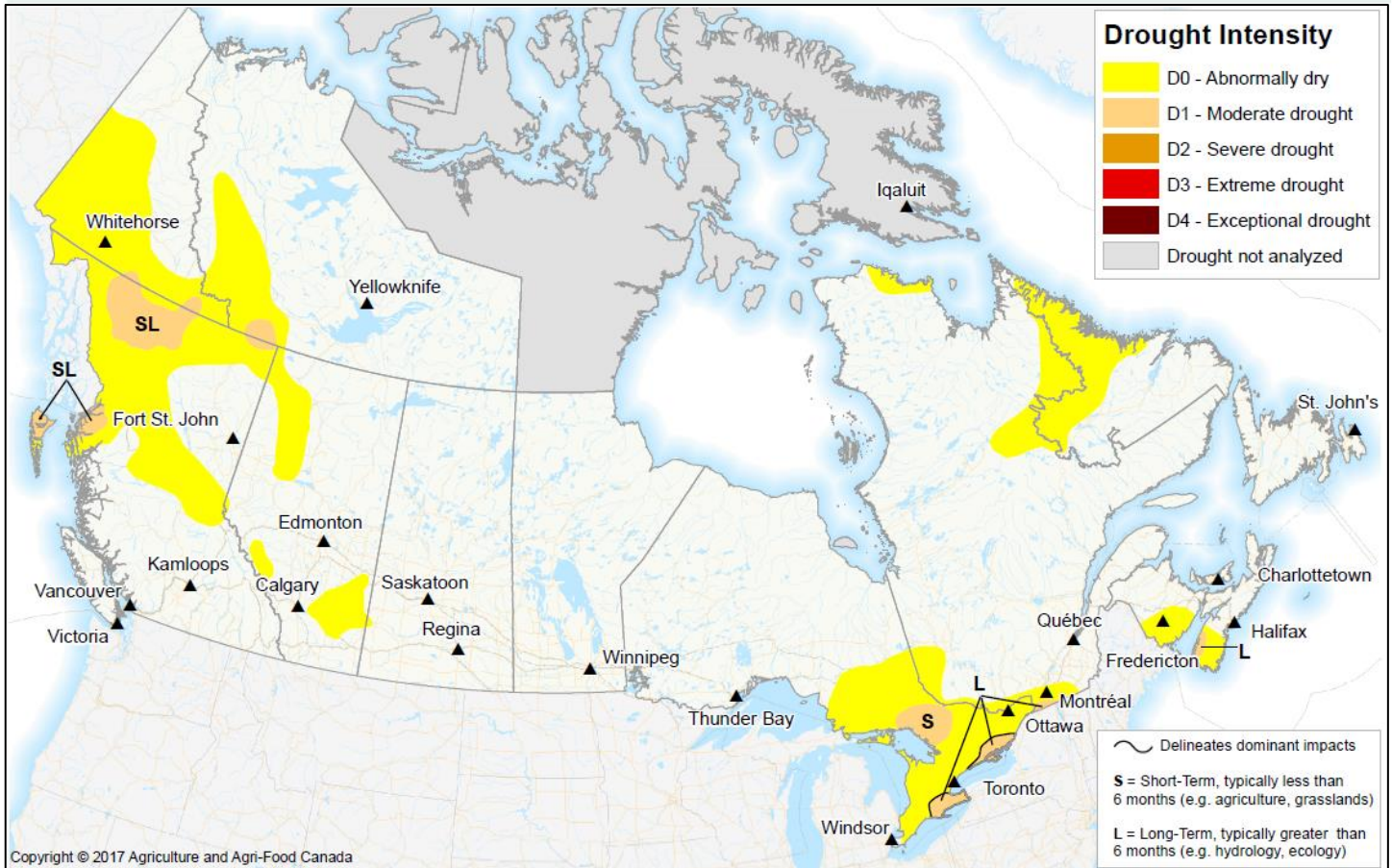


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2017



Drought conditions in January remained similar to last month's assessment, as frozen ground in most regions and snow accumulation prevented significant changes in soil moisture.

Temperatures were well above normal for much of Canada, with the exception of southern British Columbia. Temperature departures of greater than 5 degrees Celsius were experienced in northern regions of Manitoba, Ontario and Québec. It was a dry month for most of British Columbia and Alberta; while much of Manitoba and Saskatchewan received well above normal precipitation increasing concerns for spring flooding. The New Year brought much-needed precipitation to eastern Canada resulting in improved conditions in southeastern Ontario. However, Moderate Drought persists in northern British Columbia, southern Ontario, and southern Nova Scotia due to long term deficits.



Pacific Region (BC)

Dry and drought conditions in the Pacific Region were generally unchanged throughout January. Precipitation deficits since early fall led to a large area of northern British Columbia remaining enveloped by Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Satellite-derived data and precipitation analysis showed that conditions on Haida Gwaii deteriorated due to long-term dryness; thus the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was expanded to include the entire island and the northern half of the island downgraded to Moderate Drought (D1). The D1 pockets around Prince Rupert and along the southern border of Yukon Territory persisted.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Another dry month contributed to an increasingly dry winter for the Prairie Region. A large portion of the agricultural regions of Alberta have received abnormally low precipitation since September, leading to increased concern for drought development across the province. Northwestern Alberta has received very little snowfall this winter, so the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in this region was expanded to include much of the Peace Region. Precipitation indices and satellite-derived data analysis led to the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in southeast Alberta being expanded. Saskatchewan received significant precipitation during the fall which allowed soil moisture at the time of freezing to be adequate; however snowfall accumulation has been extremely low in many parts of southern Saskatchewan, with much of the province receiving below 60 percent of normal precipitation. If deficits continue, D0 designation in these regions may be warranted. Additionally, no D0 pockets developed in Manitoba, as the soil was saturated at the time of freeze up, and large portions of the province experienced record snow fall in December.

Central Region (ON, QC)

The Central Region benefitted from above normal precipitation in January, with significant improvement in drought conditions. Regions of southeastern Ontario that were in Moderate Drought (D1), specifically around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), improved to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions as a result of more than 115 percent of average precipitation fell over the past two months and excellent streamflow values. Small D1 pockets east of the GTA towards Kingston and in the Niagara region persisted due to long-term drought impacts. Satellite and radar derived data and precipitation to historical distribution shown inadequate precipitation east of Georgian Bay since September, thus a small D1 pocket in this region remained as well. D1 conditions on Manitoulin Island improved to D0 as a result of near-normal precipitation over the past three months.

Southern Québec has been abnormally dry this winter, which resulted in a slight expansion of D0 and D1 pockets in the region. Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets in northern Québec improved, and were reduced to small pockets along the northern Labrador border and Kangiqsujuaq.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Drought conditions in Atlantic Canada continued to see improvement throughout January. The Moderate Drought (D1) pocket in southern Nova Scotia was reduced to a tiny pocket around Digby as a result of near-normal precipitation and good streamflow. Above average precipitation also improved the Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Satellite-derived data showed dryness developing on the northern half of Labrador, thus the D0 pocket in this region was expanded.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Conditions in the Northern Region remained relatively unchanged throughout January. Satellite-derived data indicated improvement of the Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions along the northern border between the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory. Dryness persisted across much of southwestern Yukon Territory and the southwestern region of the Northwest Territories, with Moderate Drought (D1) pockets remaining along the northern border of British Columbia.