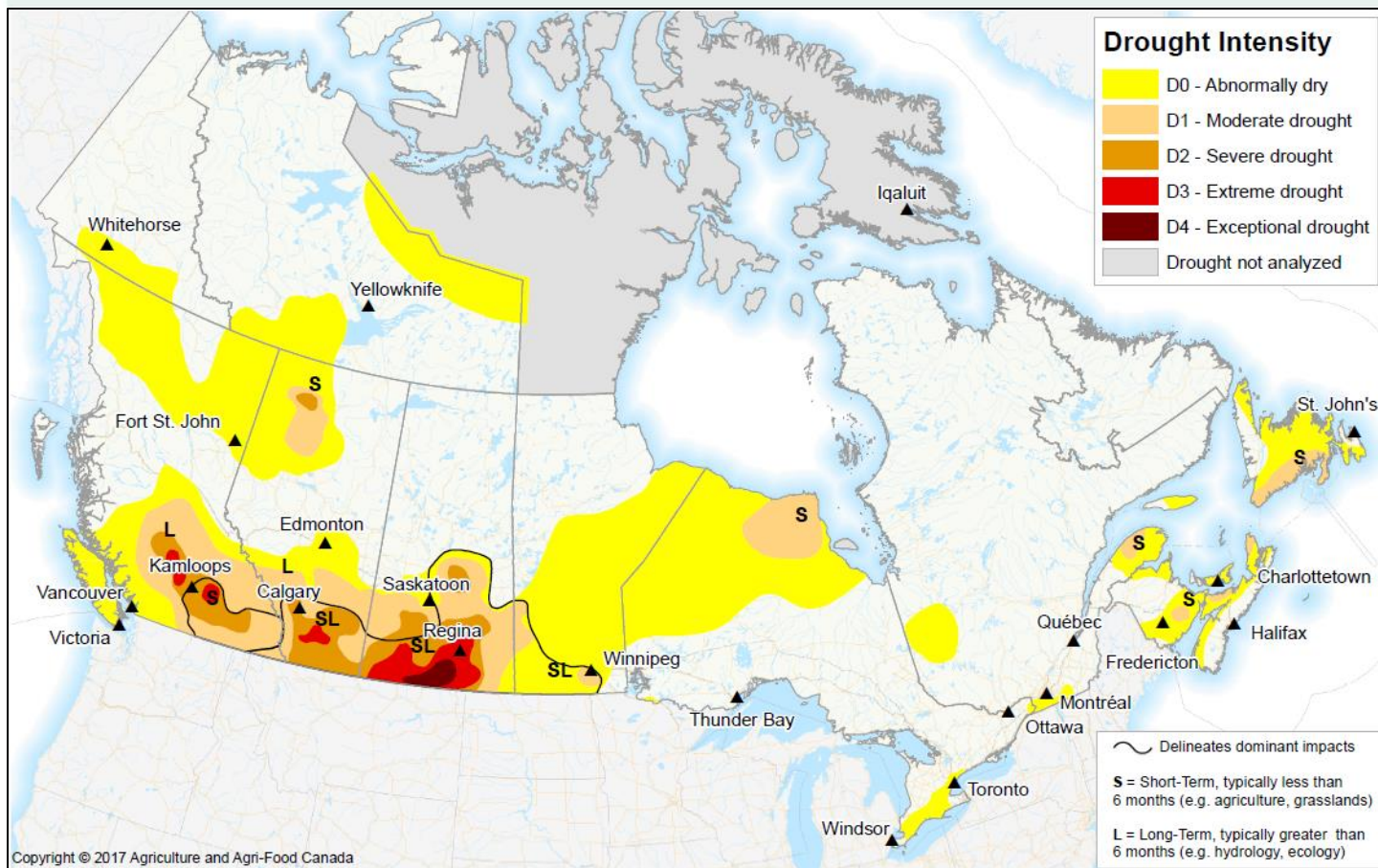


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of October 31, 2017



Many areas of Canada that have experienced drought over the summer and fall received above average precipitation throughout October, improving conditions. However; precipitation was not sufficient to alleviate prolonged precipitation and soil moisture deficits. The occurrence and risk of forest fires in British Columbia decreased, with most of the province experiencing good streamflow and average to above average rainfall throughout the month. A large swath of the Prairie Region received more than 150 percent above average precipitation throughout October, providing some relief following a hot and very dry growing season. Despite recent rain, concerns regarding soil moisture going into the winter persisted. Strong winds continued to impact soil moisture in some areas. Central Canada experienced a relatively dry month following a wet summer season. Poor streamflow and precipitation deficit across Atlantic Canada led to persisting dryness concerns.



## **Pacific Region (BC)**

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## **Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)**

A large storm event in early October brought much-needed rain to many of the hardest hit areas in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. As a result, overall drought conditions improved across the Prairies, specifically along the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan. Soil moisture conditions saw dramatic improvement across southern Alberta, prompting the improvement of Extreme Drought (D3) conditions, except for a pocket north of Lethbridge that where that moisture was not received. Despite recent improvements, longer term precipitation levels over the past three months continued to remain below average against a long term normal. Thus, Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions continued to persist, encompassing much of southern Alberta. Dryness in northwestern Alberta persisted, with a small area around High Level under D2 conditions. Despite some relief as a result of short-term precipitation, drought conditions in southern Saskatchewan remained relatively unchanged. Due to the prolonged and severe drought conditions throughout the growing season, concerns for soil moisture remain prominent. Rainfall and streamflow was below average south of Regina, and many places within this region experienced their driest year on record; thus the Extreme Drought (D3) and Exceptional Drought (D4) pockets persisted. A lack of moisture coupled with high velocity winds prompted concerns about topsoil conditions for these regions. Spring seeding will likely be impacted if the precipitation deficit in these regions continues into the winter. Manitoba experienced an abnormally dry October with minimal impacts; thus an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket continued to encompass most of the province. A Moderate Drought (D1) pocket persisted south of Winnipeg due to prolonged below normal precipitation levels. On-farm surface water supplies and forage availability remained issues for the southern Prairies.

## **Central Region (ON, QC)**

Conditions in Central Canada remained similar to the previous month's assessment, with small Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets scattered across the region with minimal impacts. Below average precipitation since September 1st led to the expansion of the D0 pocket in southwestern Ontario east to include parts of the Greater Toronto Region. D0 conditions continued to impact soil moisture and streamflow in northern Ontario. Above average precipitation in eastern Quebec led to the improvement of drought conditions. A small Moderate Drought (D1) pocket remains along the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

## **Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)**

Atlantic Canada experienced a relatively dry month with minimal impacts. Poor streamflow and precipitation deficits led to the development of several Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) pockets across the region.

## **Northern Region (YT, NT)**

Drought conditions in the Northern Region remained similar to the previous month's assessment. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted in pockets around Great Slave Lake, as satellite-derived data indicated low soil moisture conditions near Fort Providence and east of MacKay Lake. Poor streamflow and precipitation deficit led to the development of a D0 pocket south of Whitehorse in Yukon Territory.