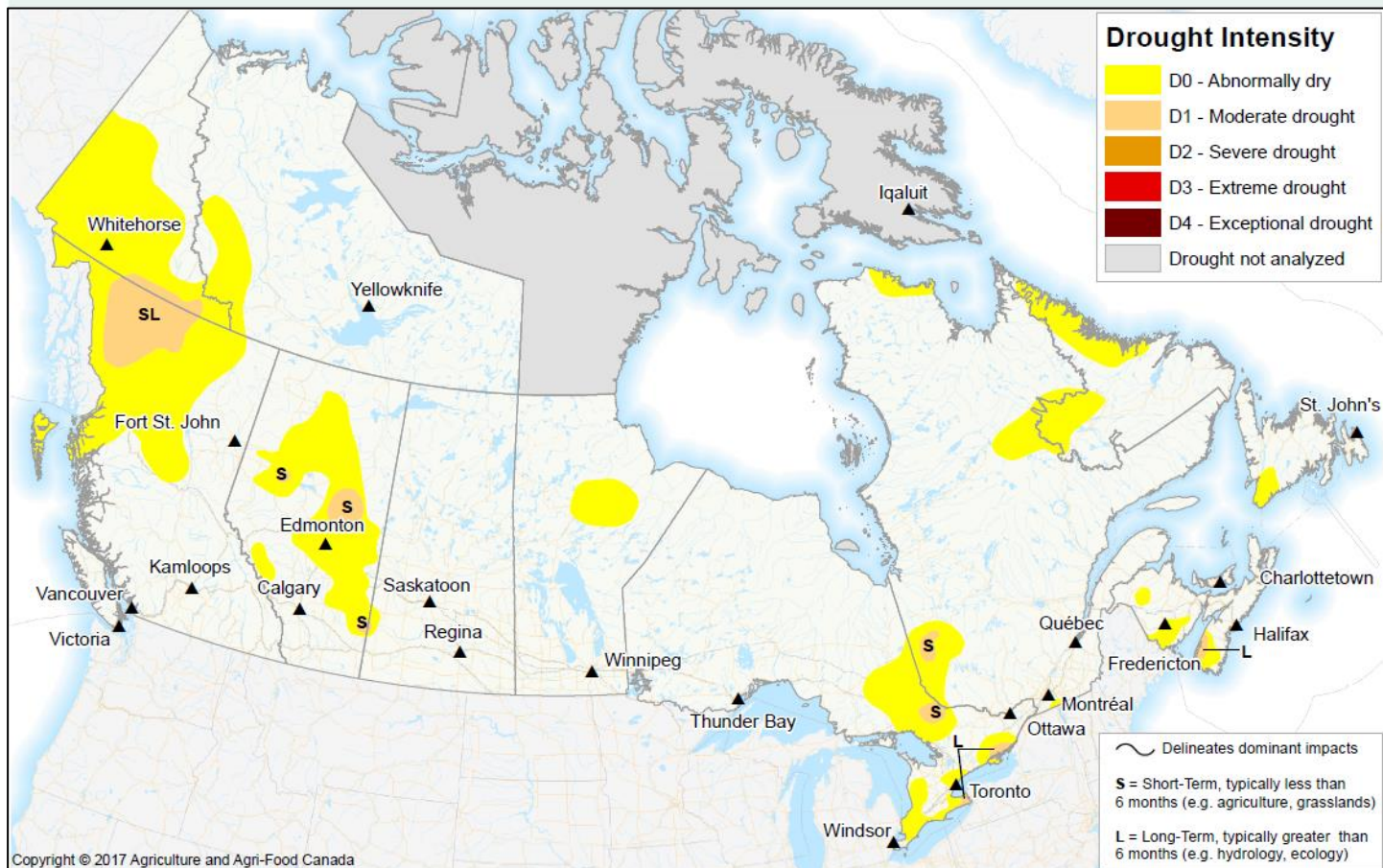


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28, 2017



Drought conditions continued to diminish in February as most regions with lingering drought impacts or precipitation deficits received significant snowfall. Temperatures continued to remain above normal for much of Canada, with the exception of British Columbia which experienced colder than average temperatures. Despite the improving conditions throughout much of the country, conditions deteriorated in Alberta where central and northern regions due to a low snowpack and continued below normal snowfall. Conditions in southeastern Ontario continued to improve; however moderate drought developed north of this region along the border between Ontario and Quebec. Moderate drought persisted in northwestern British Columbia and small regions of southeastern Ontario and southwestern Nova Scotia due to long-term precipitation deficits.



Pacific Region (BC)

Similar to the previous month's assessment, drought conditions in British Columbia were confined to the northern half of the province and remained relatively unchanged. Regional snow pillow data showed record low precipitation this winter across much of northern British Columbia, and the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was expanded to reflect this. Satellite-derived data indicated that a large area in northwestern B.C. had received less than 50 percent of the fourteen-year average over the past ninety days, resulting in the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket in this region being expanded. Some improvement was seen on Haida Gwaii and surrounding Prince Rupert; thus these areas were improved to D0.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The Prairie Region had a dry month, contributing to an increasingly dry winter. Conditions, however, in Alberta continued to deteriorate, with an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket enveloping a large portion of the province. Satellite-derived data indicated that small areas north of Medicine Hat and northeast of Grande Prairie had been experiencing significant dryness over the past few months, resulting in the development of two small D1 pockets. Despite a low snowpack, spring soil moisture concerns have not emerged in Saskatchewan and Manitoba as of yet due to good soil saturation at the end of the growing season and at the time of freezing.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Most of Central Canada continued to benefit from adequate precipitation throughout February. Conditions in southeastern Ontario improved, with Barrie, Peterborough, and Waterloo returning to normal conditions and the Moderate Drought (D1) pockets being pulled back to two tiny pockets around Kingston, Niagara Falls and North Bay. Dryness shifted north along the border between eastern Ontario and western Quebec. Precipitation indices showed severe dryness north of Rouyn-Noranda in Quebec, resulting in the development of a D1 pocket in this region. Southern Quebec continued to experience above average precipitation, and the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket shrunk to a small area south of Montreal. The D0 pockets in northern Quebec persisted due to continued precipitation deficits.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Conditions in Atlantic Canada remained relatively unchanged throughout February. Above average precipitation in southern New Brunswick led to the shrinking of the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket to a small region in the southwest. A small D0 pocket was added east of Grand Falls due to an abnormally dry winter in this area. Long term drought persisted in a tiny pocket of southwestern Nova Scotia. Southwestern Newfoundland has received extremely low precipitation since the end of the growing season; thus a D0 pocket was added. The D0 pockets in Labrador persisted due to continued precipitation deficits.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Conditions in Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged throughout February. A D0 pocket continued to envelop southern Yukon Territory. Satellite-derived data showed dryness in eastern Yukon, thus the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in Yukon Territory grew eastward towards the NWT border.