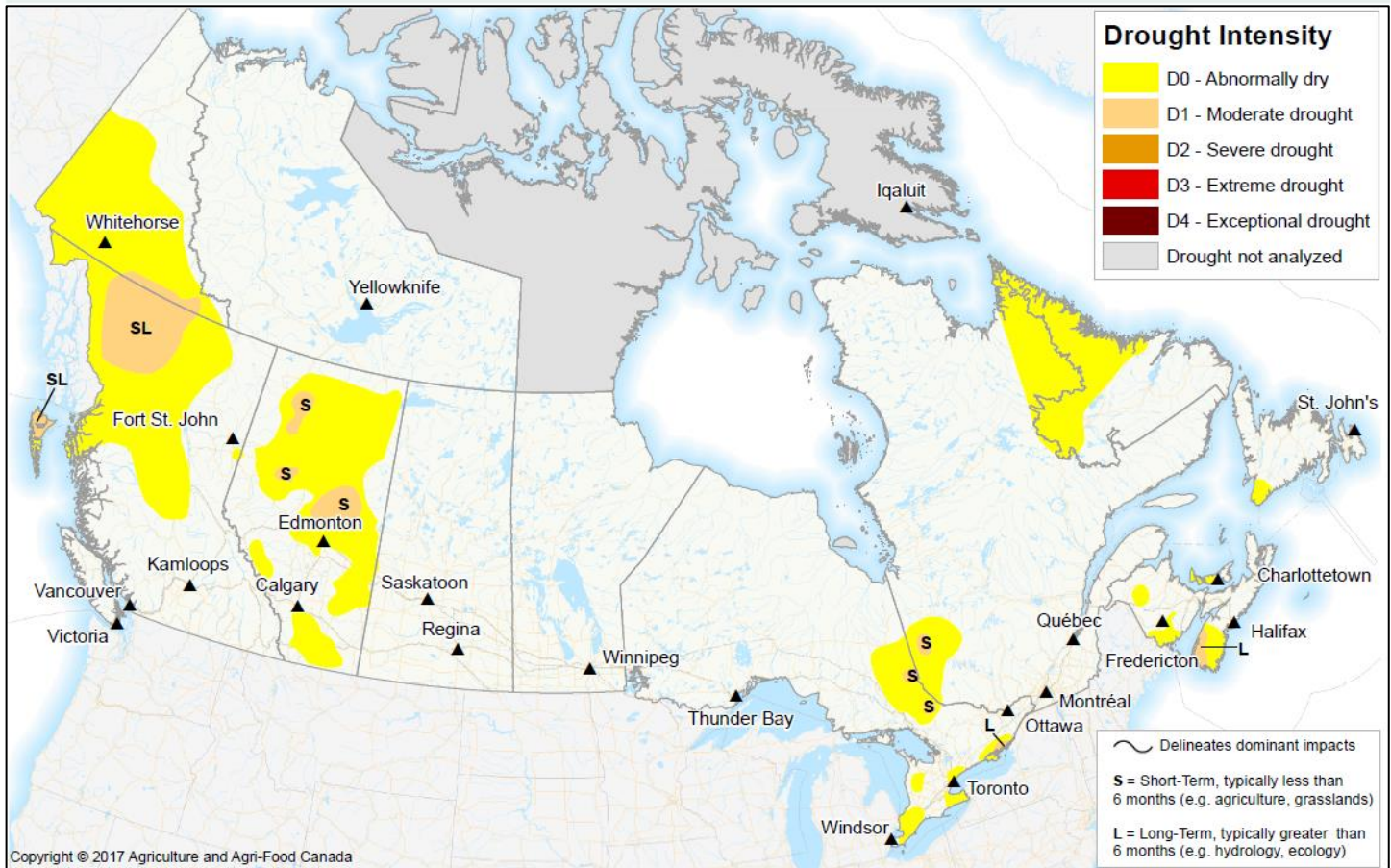


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2017



Throughout March precipitation in Eastern Canada continued to improve drought and moisture deficits while portions of western Canada, specifically Alberta and northern British Columbia, face persistent drought concerns. A vast majority of the country was slightly cooler than average throughout the month resulting in more precipitation in the form of snow. Moderate drought persisted in northwestern British Columbia and in small parts of southeastern Ontario and southwestern Nova Scotia due to long-term precipitation deficits. Short term deficits have developed in Alberta leading to small regions of drought and increased concern over soil moisture heading into the spring.



Pacific Region (BC)

Similar to the previous month's assessment, drought conditions in British Columbia were confined to the northern half of the province, with the addition of Haida Gwaii. Poor snow cover at low elevations affected central B.C., causing concerns over soil moisture conditions. Hence, the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in northern B.C. was expanded south to include Prince George and Quesnel. Snow pillow data showed that several regions in the north continued to experience record low snow accumulations this winter, and the Moderate Drought (D1) in this region has been expanded to reflect this. Precipitation indices showed significantly dry conditions on Haida Gwaii since fall; thus A D1 pocket was added.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Precipitation across the Prairie Region was variable in March. Conditions in Alberta continued to deteriorate, with much of the province receiving less than 50 percent of average since January. This region went into the winter with adequate soil moisture, however well below average winter snow fall and above normal temperatures has increased evaporation and left this region dry and vulnerable. As a result, the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was expanded to include northern Alberta and an area between Calgary and Lethbridge. A small region west of Lethbridge had an extremely dry month. Although the area surrounding Brooks saw improvement in the past couple of months diminishing drought concerns, the lack of winter snow remains a potential issue this spring. South central Saskatchewan had extremely low precipitation in March, contributing to the increasingly low snowpack. However, spring moisture concerns remain neutral due to good soil saturation at the time of freezing. By the end of the month most of the snow in the prairie region had melted and some localized stream flooding occurred.

Central Region (ON, QC)

The Central Region continued to see improvements throughout March. Southern Ontario experienced an above average precipitation event towards the end of the month, which resulted in the improvement of several Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets in the region. The remaining Moderate Drought (D1) pocket in southern Ontario is due to long-term deficits. Precipitation analysis indicated that eastern Ontario and western Québec have had a very dry winter. Three D1 pockets persist in the areas surrounding North Bay and Englehart in Ontario and Lac-Loïs in Québec. Long-term Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in northeastern Quebec also persisted through March.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Conditions in Atlantic Canada remained relatively unchanged throughout March. Above average precipitation in southern New Brunswick led to the continued shrinking of the

Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in this region. The D0 pocket in southern Nova Scotia grew as a result of a precipitation deficit over winter and long term Moderate Drought (D1) remained in a tiny pocket of southwestern Nova Scotia. The D0 pockets in Labrador have also persisted due to continued precipitation deficits.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Conditions in Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged throughout March. An Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket continued to envelop southern Yukon Territory, with moisture concerns in the area surrounding Tutchitua. Satellite-derived data showed improvement in southwestern Northwest Territories; thus this area returned to normal conditions this month.