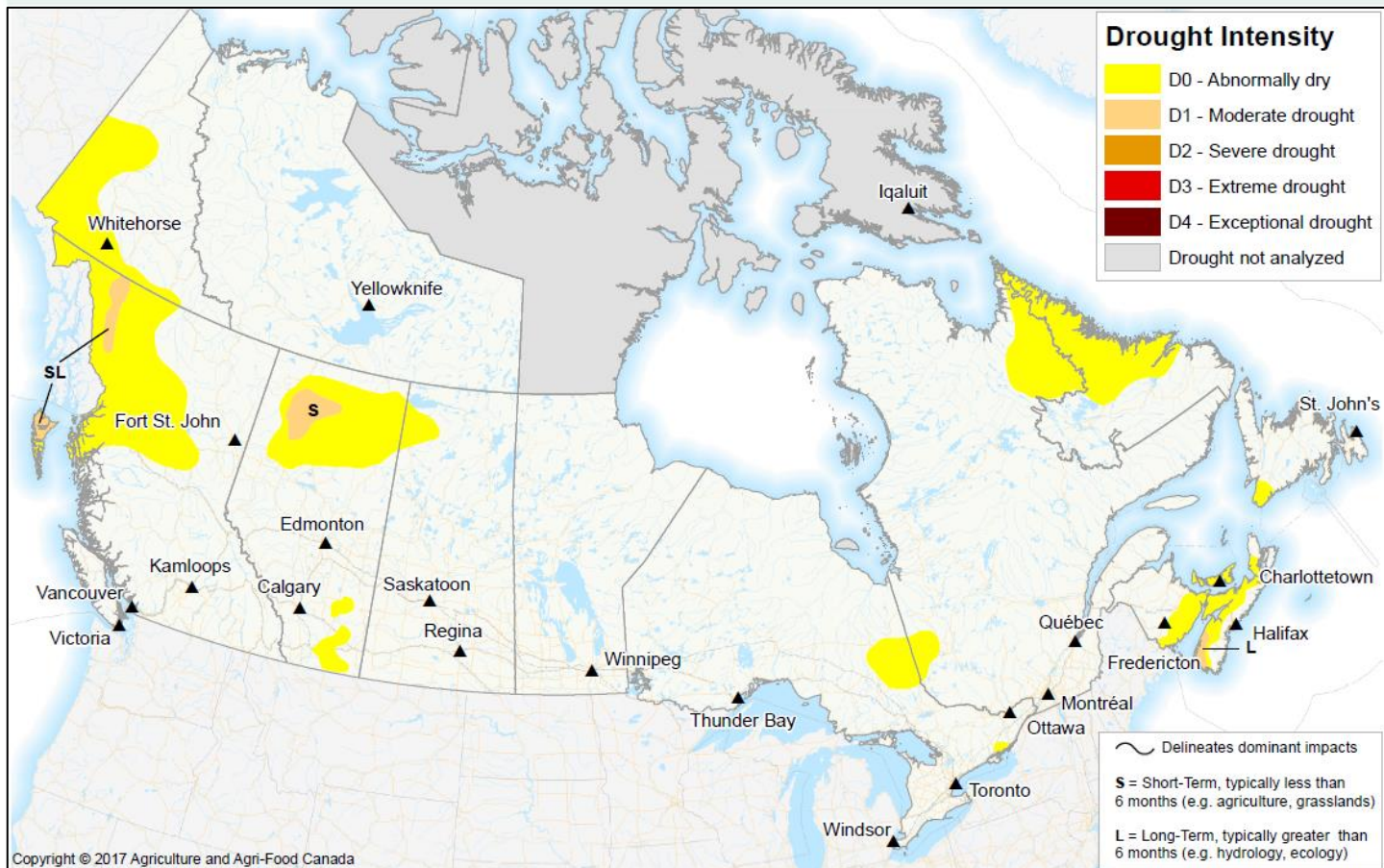


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2017



Substantial precipitation across much of the country this month improved moisture deficits and drought conditions. Cooler-than-average conditions reduced moisture loss and aided in drought recovery throughout the country. Despite good precipitation in most regions a few areas continued to have long-term deficits resulting in abnormally dry or moderate drought classifications. One such region is the southern portion of Atlantic Canada, where significant precipitation deficits continue despite there being no significant moisture concerns at this time. Conversely, portions of Southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba received below normal precipitation the winter and early spring, however, due to surplus soil moisture and water supply last fall, these regions have not been classified as abnormally dry since there is adequate moisture. As of the end of April there were only four small pockets of drought in Canada, which all represent long term deficits. Moderate drought persisted in northwestern British Columbia,



Haida Gwaii, northwestern Alberta, and southwestern Nova Scotia, however there were no significant impacts to report as a result of drought in these regions.

Pacific Region (BC)

Similar to the previous month's assessment, drought conditions in British Columbia were confined to the northern half of the province including Haida Gwaii. Conditions in and around Prince George improved, with much of this region receiving more than 150 percent of average precipitation in April. Although this region had a dry winter, a wet fall prior to freezing and a wet early spring has diminished dryness concerns; thus the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in central British Columbia was reduced. Indicators showed precipitation east of Dease Lake had returned to near-normal, thus the Abnormally Dry (D1) and Moderate Drought (D1) pockets in northern B.C. were reduced in the northeast.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Much of the Prairie Region went through a very dry winter however surplus and moisture conditions at the time of freeze up has helped start the season with adequate soil moisture and water supplies. The central Prairie Region experienced very high levels of precipitation in April resulting in excess moisture concerns in central Alberta. Northern Alberta and a small pocket in southern Alberta have been classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) due to poor moisture conditions and extended rainfall deficits. Regions of southern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba continued to receive below normal precipitation however due to abundant water supplies and excess soil moisture this region remained unclassified. Available data indicated low rainfall and dryness in northwestern Saskatchewan, so the D0 in northern Alberta was expanded east to include this region. Precipitation indices and soil moisture data indicated that the area east of Fort Vermilion was very dry; thus, the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket around High Level was expanded east to include Fox Lake. As the season progresses, these areas will be watched closely for emerging drought.

Central Region (ON, QC)

The Central Region continued to see improvements throughout April. Agricultural regions of Ontario experienced a very wet month, diminishing all long-term moisture concerns that had persisted from last fall and through the winter. Precipitation in southern Ontario was 150 percent above normal in April, and streamflow was excellent across the province. Both short term and long term indices showed significant improvement, thus, the Moderate Drought (D1) pockets in Ontario were removed and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remain only due to long-term deficits in two small areas around Kingston and Timmins. Long-term Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in northeastern Quebec also persisted through April.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Precipitation deficits continued in Atlantic Canada through April. Much of Nova Scotia, PEI, and southeastern New Brunswick have experienced a dry spring so far. Most of this region received more than 75mm below normal precipitation in the past couple of months. Satellite-derived soil moisture data showed moisture deficits in this area following a dry fall. Additionally, short-term and long-term precipitation indices suggest significant dryness in this region. Thus, a large Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was added. The D0 pocket in Labrador also persisted due to continued precipitation deficits.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Conditions in Northern Canada improved this month. Satellite-derived data indicated that over the past three months, precipitation in and around Faro was near-normal; thus, the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in southern Yukon Territory was reduced.