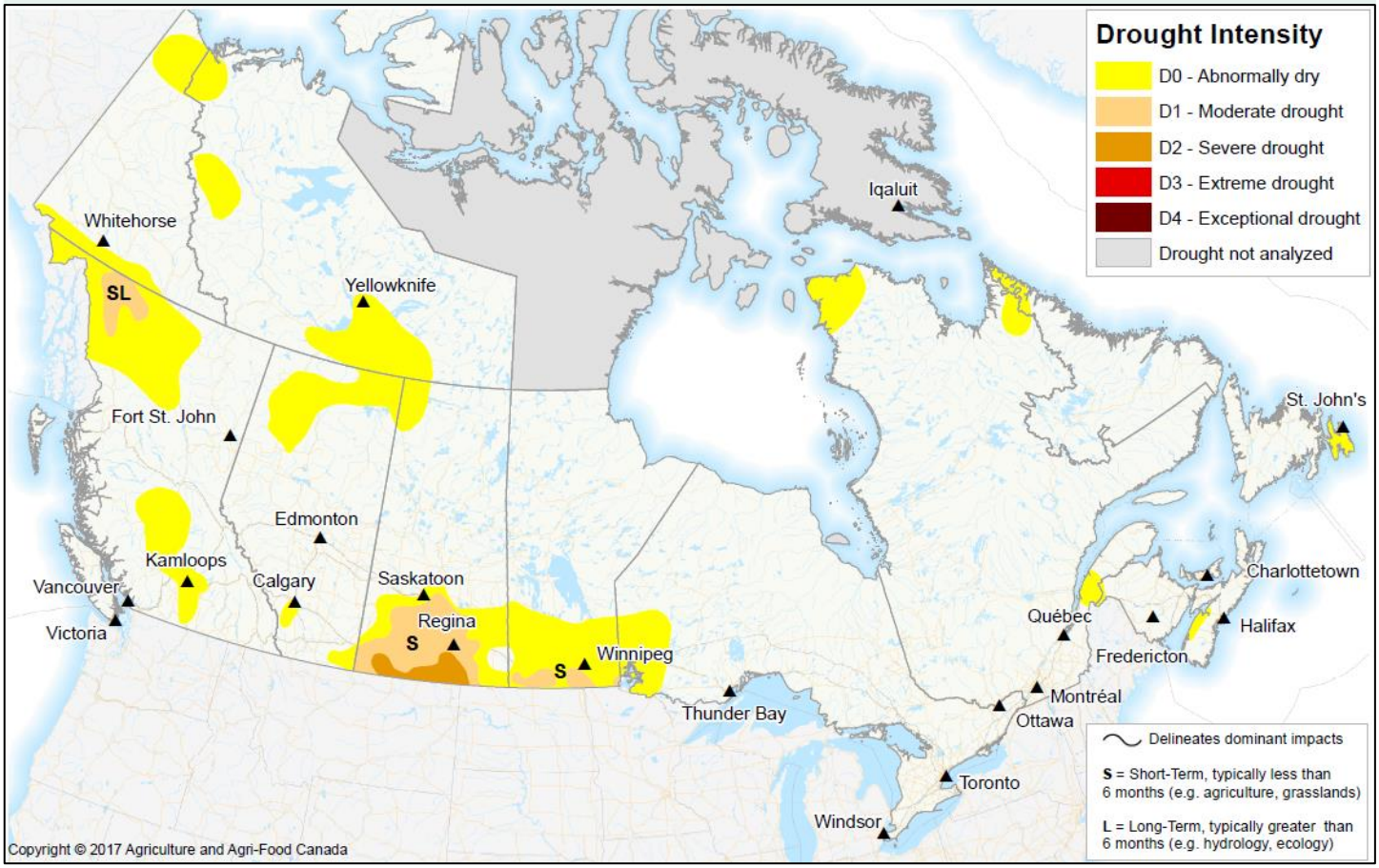
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 30, 2017



Drought conditions developed extremely quickly through the past month in southern regions of the Prairies as a result of minimal rainfall and strong persistent winds. The region most significantly impacted both in severity and in extent, was southern Saskatchewan, where the total precipitation accumulation in June was below 25 mm and precipitation since April 1 below 75 mm, less than half of average. Dry conditions continued to worsen through much of British Columbia, with below normal rainfall through June. Abnormally wet conditions persisted in parts of Ontario and Quebec. Conditions in Atlantic Canada continued to improve, with only a few small Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets remaining.

Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions in British Columbia degraded over the month of June. Abnormally high spring rainfall depleted quickly and short-term satellite-derived precipitation data, as well as, in situ station data indicated that both the Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions in the northeast persisted and expanded west. A D0 pocket developed in the central interior of the province following a dry couple of months that had resulted in poor soil moisture and high forest fire risk. Conditions in Haida Gwaii improved to normal as a result of above average precipitation over the past sixty days.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Dryness continued to envelop the southern agricultural regions of the Prairies throughout June, especially in southern Saskatchewan. Low precipitation accumulation in parts of southern Alberta resulted in the addition of two small D0 pockets surrounding Calgary and Pakowki Lake. Severe precipitation deficits, low soil moisture, and evaporative conditions resulted in the development of a large D1 pocket and small Severe Drought (D2) pocket in southern Saskatchewan. All weather station and satellite-derived data indicates that this region has experienced an extremely dry year, with dryness increasing progressively further south. According the Saskatchewan Agriculture crop report for the week ended July 3, topsoil moisture province-wide on cropland is rated as five percent surplus, 49 percent adequate, 37 percent short and nine percent very short. Persistence of the dry conditions will cause significant impacts to livestock and crops. Producers reported significant impact on crop, pasture and haylands at the end of June. Some producers had reduced the size of their herds to ensure they had feed available to carry their livestock. The Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket across the southern half of the province was also expanded as far north as Saskatoon, with the exception of Moosomin and surrounding area. Southern Manitoba has also been experiencing an increasingly dry year; however satellite-derived soil moisture, crop reports and streamflow data indicate that conditions are less severe than southern Saskatchewan. The D0 pocket was extended further north and several D1 pockets developed along the US border due to extremely low precipitation since the start of the growing season. Conditions in northern Alberta improved as a result of precipitation and cool conditions; thus, the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in this region shrunk and the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket was removed.

Central Region (ON, QC)

As the Central Region of the country continued to receive record amounts of rainfall, there was no drought concern, and conditions remained relatively static. Satellite-derived soil moisture data indicated the persistence of a small Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket along the southern Manitoba border in northwestern Ontario. D0 conditions in northern Quebec saw some improvement this month, with a small pocket along the northern Labrador border persisting. Satellite-derived precipitation data indicated that a small area in the northernmost part of the province was dry; thus, a D0 pocket was added. A small D0 pocket also developed near the New Brunswick border south of the St. Lawrence River as a result of short term precipitation deficit and poor streamflow.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Conditions in Atlantic Canada remained relatively static throughout June. Average precipitation since the start of the year resulted in the reduction of the long-term Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in northeastern Nova Scotia. Small D0 pockets in northern Newfoundland and the Avalon Peninsula remained due to persisting precipitation deficits. Conditions in and around Cape Ray improved to normal as a result of short-term precipitation and good streamflow.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Conditions in Yukon Territory improved slightly over the month of June. Precipitation in the south east corner of the territory resulted in the improvement of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions along the US border. A small pocket along the northern British Columbia border persisted. Satellite-derived data indicated dryness south of Mackenzie bay; thus a D0 pocket was added in the north and north east of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, respectively. Short-term precipitation deficits resulted in the persistence of the D0 pocket west of Norman Wells. Poor streamflow and low moisture indicated by the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index Drought Code resulted in the development of a large D0 pocket around Yellowknife and south of Great Slave Lake.

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