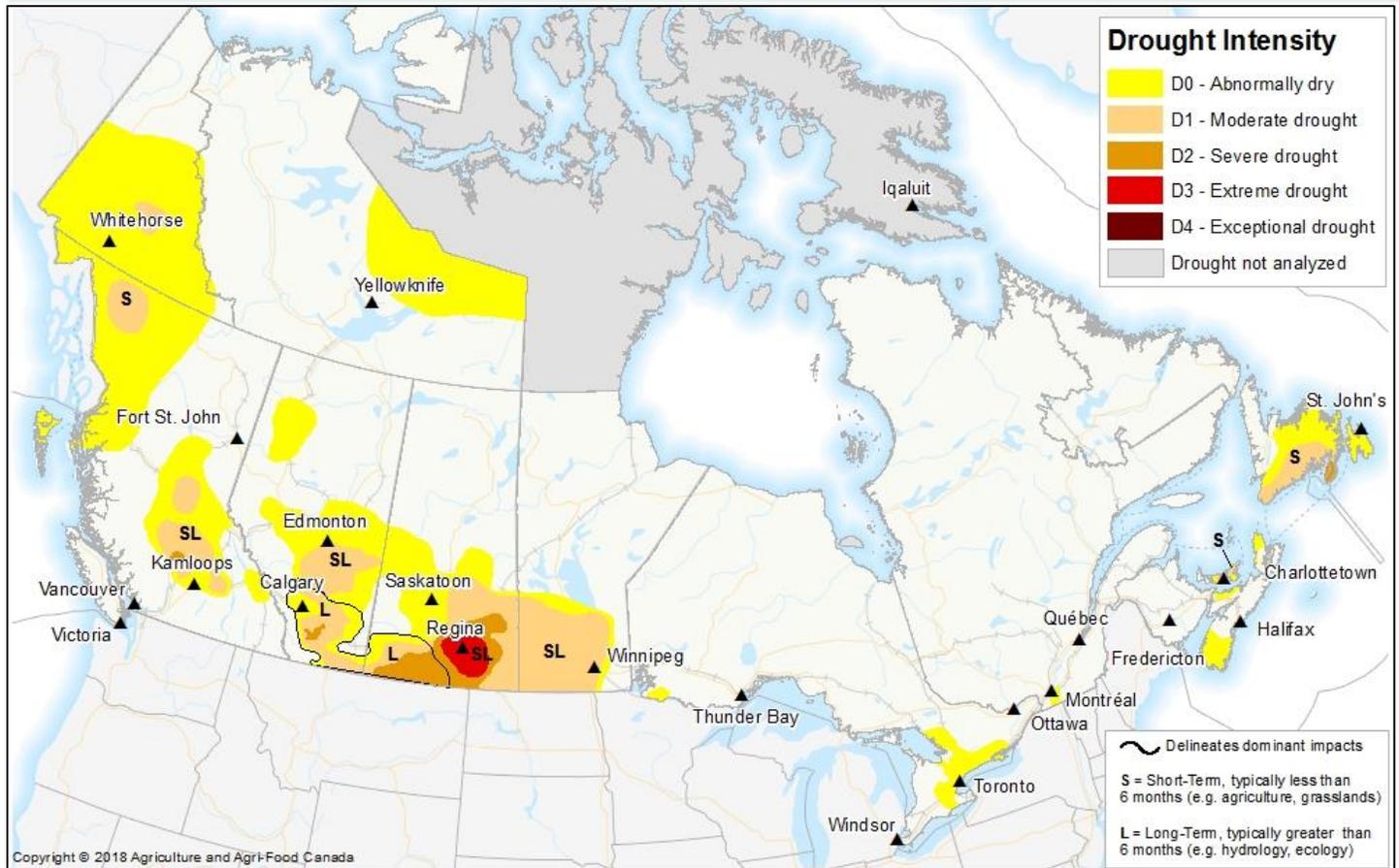


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2018



Drought conditions across most regions in Canada generally improved in January. Precipitation was variable across the country; moisture conditions improved in British Columbia and Central Canada, while deficits persisted across the Prairie and Atlantic regions. As the country settled deeper into winter, moisture deficits carried over from fall freeze-up remain. The southern prairie region continued to receive well below normal winter precipitation. Long term drought conditions also persist in southern British Columbia, the southern Prairies, and Newfoundland.

## Pacific Region (BC)

High amounts of precipitation across southern and coastal British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, continued to improve dry and drought conditions. Much of the southern



interior region received over 50mm of precipitation during January, and over 200mm for the past 90 days, prompting significant improvement of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions south of Kamloops. Severe Drought (D2) conditions persisted in some of the regions hardest-hit by drought (north of Ashcroft) over the growing season as these areas continued to experience significant precipitation deficits. Poor snowpack accumulation around the Prince George and Quesnel has led to the development of a small Moderate Drought (D1) pocket in that area. Dry conditions persisted along the northern border, and expanded south to Prince Rupert. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions developed in the Dease Lake / Atlin region with continued below normal winter precipitation.

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

Drought conditions generally improved from last month's assessment across the Prairie Region. Precipitation deficits continued in southern Alberta; however, there was some relief from drought and abnormal dryness east of the Rocky Mountains. Significant precipitation deficits in central Alberta has led to the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and the emergence of Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. Drought conditions in northwestern Alberta, improved with above normal precipitation in the High Level region. Long-term drought continued to dominate the southern half of Saskatchewan; however, western regions continued to slowly improve. Moisture levels remained a concern for areas stretching from north of Regina to south of Weyburn, which is under Extreme Drought (D3) conditions. Precipitation in this area continues to be below seasonal and inadequate to provide any relief from persisting drought conditions. Significant moisture deficits across southern Manitoba since November 1 has led to the development of a large Moderate Drought (D1) pocket which encompasses most of the southern half of the province.

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

Dry and drought conditions across Central Canada improved throughout January. In parts of southern Ontario Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions improved, although precipitation levels remain slightly below average for some regions. D0 conditions improved in northern Ontario as a result of normal to above normal monthly precipitation and improved streamflow. The small Abnormally Dry (D0) region south of Montreal decreased as the region received above normal precipitation in January. Due to above normal precipitation, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in eastern Québec were alleviated following a very dry growing season.

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

In Atlantic Canada, conditions remained relatively unchanged from last month's assessment. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted across much of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, although conditions improved slightly along the Annapolis Valley. In Newfoundland, drought

conditions persisted as the region continued to receive below normal precipitation, particularly in the southern parts of the island.

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

Conditions in the Northern Region remained similar to the previous month's assessment. The Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in the Northwest Territories improved slightly, although poor streamflow and below normal precipitation persisted. The D0 pocket along the southern Yukon Territory border persisted due to long-term precipitation deficits which contributed to the development of a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket.