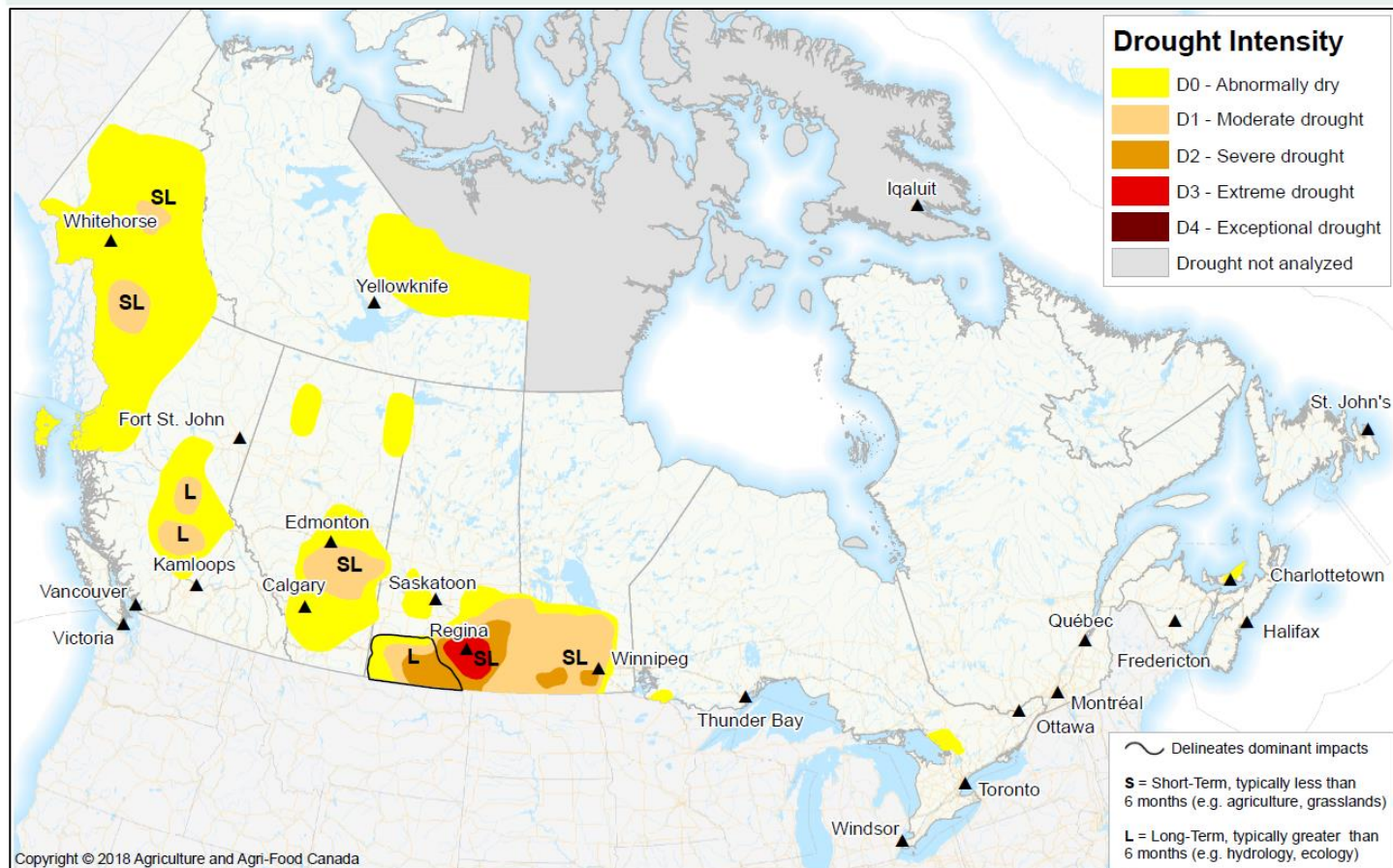


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28, 2018



Drought conditions improved across most regions in Canada throughout February. The southern half of British Columbia continued to receive abundant precipitation, and all remaining moisture concerns were confined to the northern half of the province. Long-term moisture deficits continued to plague the southern Prairies. Central and Atlantic Canada received near or above normal precipitation over the month, improving conditions. Dry pockets in Northern Canada persisted due to enduring precipitation deficits. Overall, long-term drought conditions lingered in northern British Columbia and the southern Prairies.

## Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions improved along the central interior of British Columbia as the region received exceptionally high precipitation over the month, with Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate



Drought (D1) conditions retreating northward. However, some dryness continues to linger across the central interior, as it was one of the hardest-hit regions by drought and wildfires over the growing season. Dry conditions continue to persist in the northern regions of the province due to below normal winter precipitation.

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

Conditions were variable across the Prairies throughout February, as some regions experienced improved moisture conditions while precipitation deficits endured in drought-stricken regions. Improvement was observed in southern Alberta, where precipitation levels returned to seasonal averages following a dry fall. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions retreated slightly across northern Alberta. Due to persistent below normal precipitation and lingering soil moisture deficits at the point of freeze-up in the fall, Severe Drought (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions remained present across southern Saskatchewan. In contrast, conditions in central Saskatchewan continued to improve with a southward D0 retreat. Moderate Drought (D1) persisted in southern Manitoba as most of region received below 40 percent of average precipitation over the past 60 days, prompting the addition of a D2 pocket south of Brandon.

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

Dry and drought conditions continued to improve across Central Canada since the last month's assessment. Over February, much of southern Ontario received over 90 mm of rain and experienced above normal temperatures as high as 16°C, prompting the removal of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in most regions. Towards mid-month, many areas in southern Ontario were placed under provincially-issued flood watches and warnings due to sudden increases in precipitation as evident by high streamflow. In Québec, D0 conditions were alleviated south of Montreal due to near normal precipitation.

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

In Atlantic Canada, conditions improved throughout February as much of the region received near or above normal precipitation. Dry conditions in Nova Scotia were alleviated by increased precipitation levels. A small Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket persisted on Prince Edward Island. Overall conditions improved throughout Newfoundland, following dry conditions in early winter.

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

In the Northern Region, drought conditions remained relatively unchanged from last month's assessment. As precipitation deficits continued to persist in the Yukon, Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions remained. D0 conditions persisted in the Northwest Territories, as indicated by poor streamflow.

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