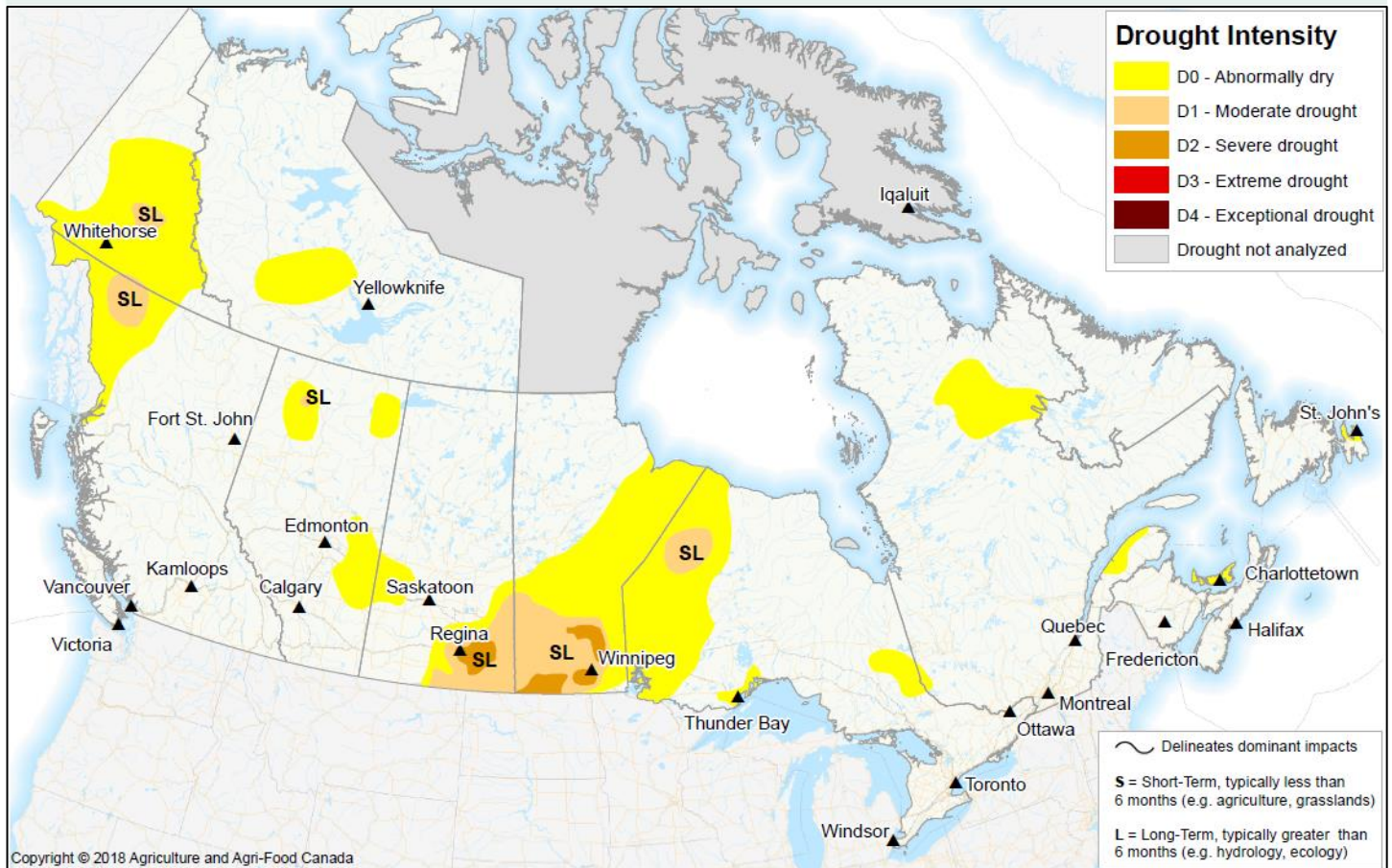


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2018



Drought conditions generally improved across Canada during April. Much of the country recorded temperatures significantly below average, while precipitation was above average for most regions. Dry conditions were alleviated in central British Columbia due to near-record high precipitation. Warm temperatures towards the end of the month brought snow melt and moisture relief to most of the Prairie region; however precipitation deficits persisted in southern Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. Precipitation was generally average to above average across the Central and Atlantic regions throughout April, relieving abnormally dry conditions. Overall, long term drought conditions remained in the southern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba and northern British Columbia.



Pacific Region (BC)

In the Pacific region, overall conditions continued to improve as most of the region received above normal precipitation. The central interior region received exceptionally high precipitation over the month of April; this along with an above average snowpack prompted localized flooding concerns. Precipitation was near to above normal along the southern Coast. In the north, overall conditions improved as Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions migrated northward towards the border with the Yukon. Although moisture conditions have greatly improved throughout the winter, the impact of the 2017 drought and record wild fire season will have long term impacts. Agricultural producers in the province lost significant rangeland due to fire in 2017 that will take multiple years to return to original capacity.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Conditions were highly variable across the Prairies, with excessive moisture in the west, particularly in southern Alberta, and progressively drier conditions eastward with drought degradation in southern Manitoba. The Prairies experienced well below normal temperatures for April with many areas suffering temperatures 10 degrees Celsius below the seasonal normal. Below normal temperature has resulted in a delayed spring and continued snow cover protecting the soil moisture late into the month. Excessive moisture conditions dominated southern Alberta, as several regions experienced flooding due to a quick spring melt near the end of the month. Overall conditions northern and western Alberta improved as precipitation levels returned to near-average. However, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded along the central Alberta-Saskatchewan border due to precipitation deficits. Abundant snow coupled with warm temperatures near the end of the month resulting in snowmelt replenished the water supply in many dugouts throughout southwestern Saskatchewan, thus drought conditions in this region continued to improve. Long term Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) conditions continued to persist in the southeastern region, as this region was the most severely impacted during the 2017 growing season and soil moisture concerns persisted. Moderate Drought (D1) endured in the eastern portion of the province expanding into central Manitoba. Manitoba continued to experience moisture deficits due to below average precipitation. Much of the southern half of the province received below the 10th percentile precipitation throughout April, following a worsening moisture deficit over the past year. As such, Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) conditions persisted across the southern portion of the province.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In Central Canada, conditions improved in the southern regions while conditions degraded in the northern regions. April was an eventful month for southern Ontario, as the region experienced temperatures which were 4 to 6 degrees Celsius below seasonal normal during the first half of the month. A significant storm event, spanning southern and eastern Ontario over

April 14th to 16th, brought heavy precipitation in the form of freezing rain and snow across southern and eastern Ontario. This event contributed to significant snowfall accumulation, with a slow melt as temperatures did not return to seasonal averages until the end of the month. These low temperatures coupled with above average amounts of precipitation alleviated several dry pockets in the southern half of the province. In contrast, conditions were drier in Northern Ontario, and an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket developed around Thunder Bay. In Québec, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions developed in the east along the gulf of the St. Lawrence and in the northeastern stretches of the province.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In Atlantic Canada, the month of April brought normal to above normal precipitation for most of the region. On Prince Edward Island, lingering dry conditions from winter persisted. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions improved in Newfoundland due to seasonal precipitation indicated by near normal streamflow levels.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

In the Northern Region, drought conditions remained relatively unchanged from last month's assessment. Due to the lower than normal temperatures through the month, the snow melt was slowed or did not begin.