

Climatic Perspectives

Weekly

January 16 to 22, 1995

A weekly review of Canadian climate and water

Vol. 17 No. 4

Well-above-normal temperatures

Except for the High Arctic and south-eastern Labrador, the entire country was much milder than normal. The welfare of some plants and animals in Nova Scotia is a concern, as they have prematurely awakened.

A warm southerly flow aloft became established over the Yukon and worked its way to the surface. Temperatures on the 22nd were up to 25 Celsius degrees above normal - Whitehorse recorded 2.0°C and Haines Junction, 6.4°C. Coastal passes received 25 to 40 cm of snow for the week.

The Ford Motor Company arrived in Yellowknife for cold-weather testing. They were looking for -30°C mornings that ended about the time they arrived in town. Weekly average temperatures in the Districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin were 10 to 14 degrees above normal.

A ridge of high pressure provided temperatures from two to eight degrees above normal across British Columbia. Sunshine totals were greatest in Victoria (31.7 hours, normal 14.0 hours) and in the north, Fort St. John (30.7 hours, normal 17.2 hours). In the central and southern interior, the ridge kept low cloud and fog in the valleys, below temperature inversions.

The week in Alberta began with a continuation of low cloud, fog and patchy freezing drizzle. On the 18th, extensive fog covered central areas while chinook winds in the southwest produced above-freezing temperatures. A northward-moving high pressure ridge began to cover the province on the 19th, bringing clear skies and above-

normal temperatures. Calgary recorded 6.6°C on the 18th and maximums above freezing for the rest of the week.

Daytime highs across Saskatchewan and Manitoba were near ten degrees above normal at the beginning of the week. Record-high daily minimum temperatures, near -10°C, were set in the north on the 18th. A ridge of high pressure moved southwards across Manitoba on the 21st giving the province minimum temperatures of -35 to -20°C, on the 22nd.

Mild temperatures, rain, fog and cloud continued in central and southern Ontario. In most of the south, the sun has not shone since January 10. Total rain in southern Ontario has generally surpassed the 100-mm mark, so far this month - Toronto's 115 mm ranks as the most rain in January since 1937 (125 mm). Both the lack of snow and mild temperatures have plagued ski operators.

Temperatures to the southeast of James Bay have been above normal every week since mid-September - Matagami was 14.6 degrees above normal for the week. Temperatures were ten to twelve degrees above normal in southern Quebec. Freezing rain covered the Pierre-Laporte Bridge in Québec City on the 21st, causing numerous accidents. Adding to the dangerous situation, ice fell from the bridge's overhead structure. The falling ice was loosened by winds and mild temperatures and caused personal injuries and vehicular damage. The bridge was closed for a few hours as a special task force scaled the bridge and removed the ice.

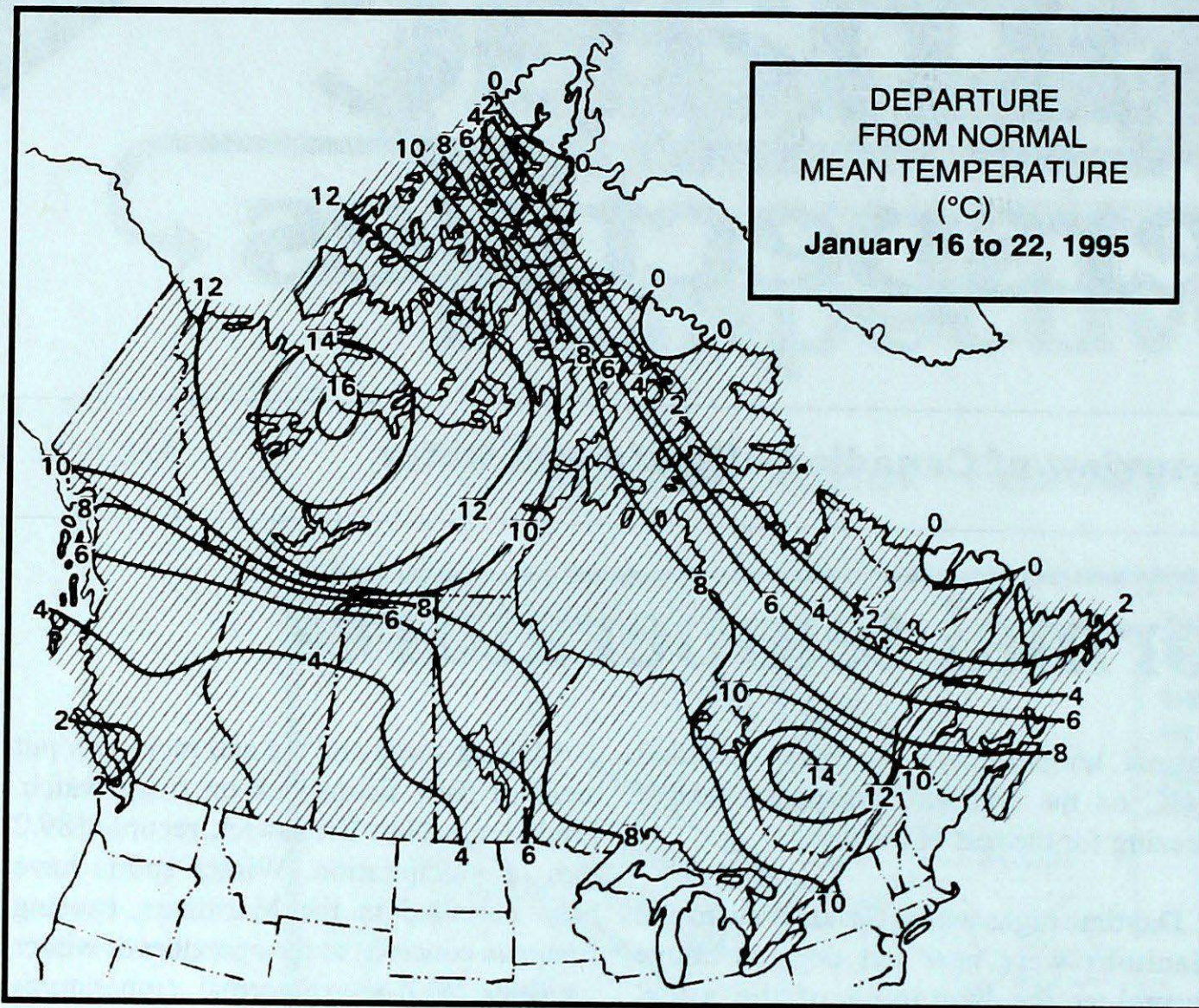
Melting snow and ice and more rain put areas of New Brunswick on flood watch. Fredericton, New Brunswick, recorded 89.2 mm of precipitation. Winter sports have been curtailed in the Maritimes, causing financial concerns to the operators of winter facilities. Well-above normal temperatures included many records, January 16-17. Sydney reached 16.9°C on the 16th, a record for January (old record, 14.4°C, January 2, 1887, January 3, 1913). Unofficial reports included 19.5°C at Bridgewater, Nova Scotia on the 16th.

Newfoundland and Labrador

While the Avalon Peninsula and south coast of Newfoundland received freezing rain on the 17th, other areas of the Island received heavy snow. Gander recorded 35.6 cm (old record 16.5 cm, 1971) and Deer Lake 25.4 cm. Snow continued on the Avalon Peninsula on the 18th. By the end of the week, temperatures were slightly above normal. Under the influence of high pressure, precipitation in Labrador was minimal. Temperatures ranged from 3.8 degrees above normal in Wabush to 1.8 degrees below normal at Cartwright.

A Look Ahead...

For the week of January 30, above-normal temperatures are expected for most of the country. Near-normal values are forecast along coastal B.C., and in Ontario, southern Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces. Significant precipitation is likely for southern and coastal B.C., and the Atlantic Provinces.



Weekly normal temperatures (°C)

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	-14.2	-22.4
Iqaluit A	-21.6	-29.9
Yellowknife A	-23.5	-31.8
Vancouver Int'l A	5.5	0.2
Victoria Int'l A	6.3	0.4
Calgary Int'l A	-4.2	-16.5
Edmonton Int'l A	-7.9	-19.7
Regina A	-11.6	-22.2
Saskatoon A	-13.0	-23.3
Winnipeg Int'l A	-14.0	-24.4
Ottawa Int'l A	-6.6	-15.9
Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	-2.5	-11.4
Montréal Int'l A	-5.9	-15.1
Québec A	-7.3	-17.1
Fredericton A	-3.8	-15.3
Saint John A	-2.5	-13.7
Halifax (Shearwater)	0.1	-8.4
Charlottetown A	-2.8	-11.8
Goose A	-10.9	-20.2
St John's A	-0.2	-7.2

Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes

	Maximum temperature (°C)	Minimum temperature (°C)	Greatest precipitation (mm)
British Columbia	Vancouver Int'l A 12	Fort St John A -29	Port Alberni A 39
Yukon Territory	Haines Junction 6	Ogilvie -36	Klondike 16
Northwest Territories	Hay River A -3	Eureka -44	Yellowknife A 3
Alberta	Calgary Int'l A 7	Cold Lake A -24	Lac La Biche (aut) 3
Saskatchewan	Swift Current A -4	Meadow Lake A -31	Estevan A 16
Manitoba	Winnipeg A -2	Thompson A -35	Brandon A 21
Ontario	Toronto Island A 7	Moosonee -26	Toronto Int'l A 65
Quebec	Sherbrooke A 16	Schefferville A -38	Gaspé A 63
New Brunswick	Moncton A 14	St. Leonard A -8	Fredericton A 93
Nova Scotia	Sydney A 17	Amherst (aut) -2	Truro 89
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown A 9	Charlottetown A -2	Charlottetown A 37
Newfoundland and Labrador	St John's A 7	Churchill Falls A -36	Stephenville A 63

Across The Country...

Highest Mean Temperature	Cape St James (B.C.) 8
Lowest Mean Temperature	Eureka (N.W.T.) -39

95/01/16-95/01/22

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES
VOLUME 17

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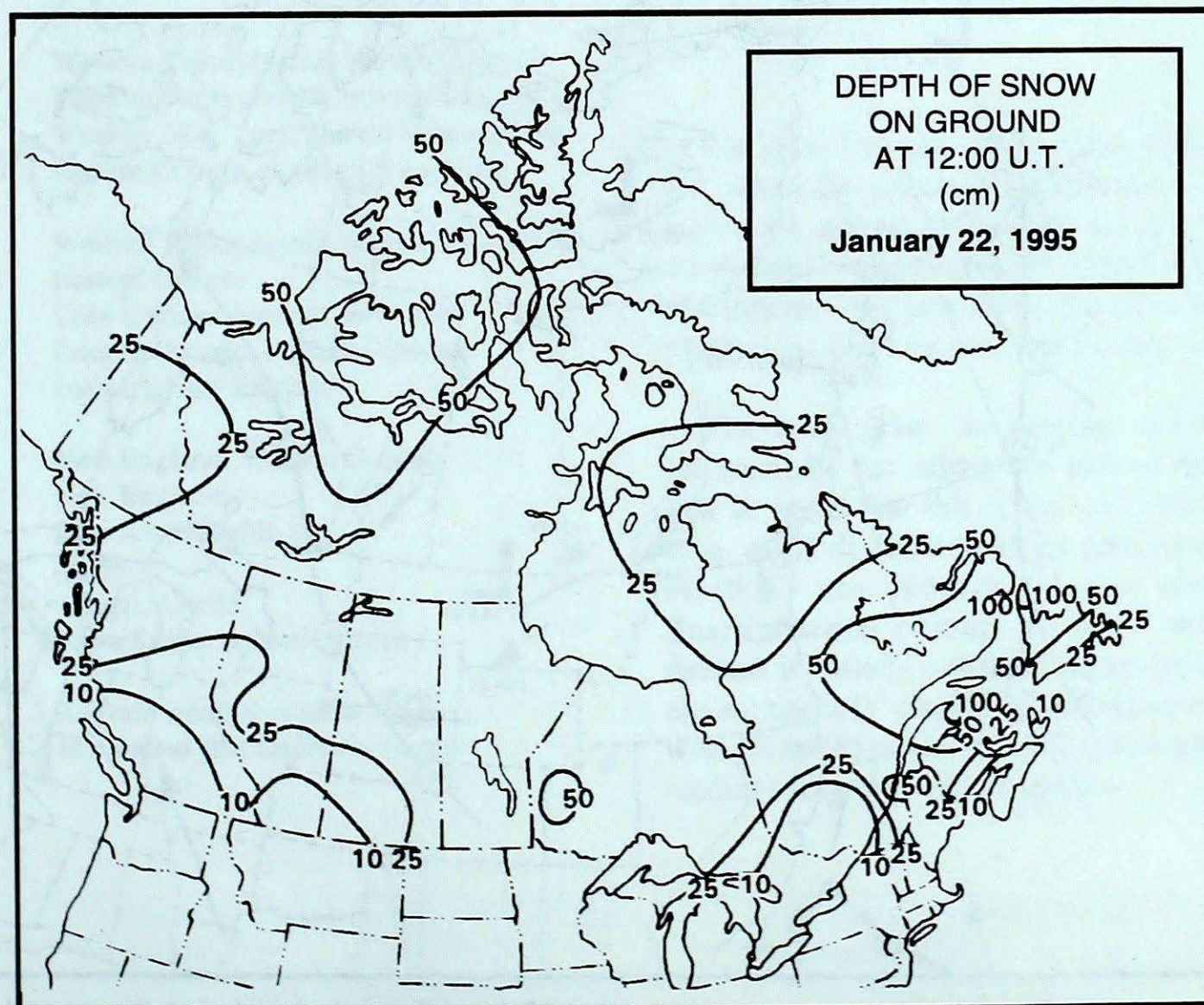
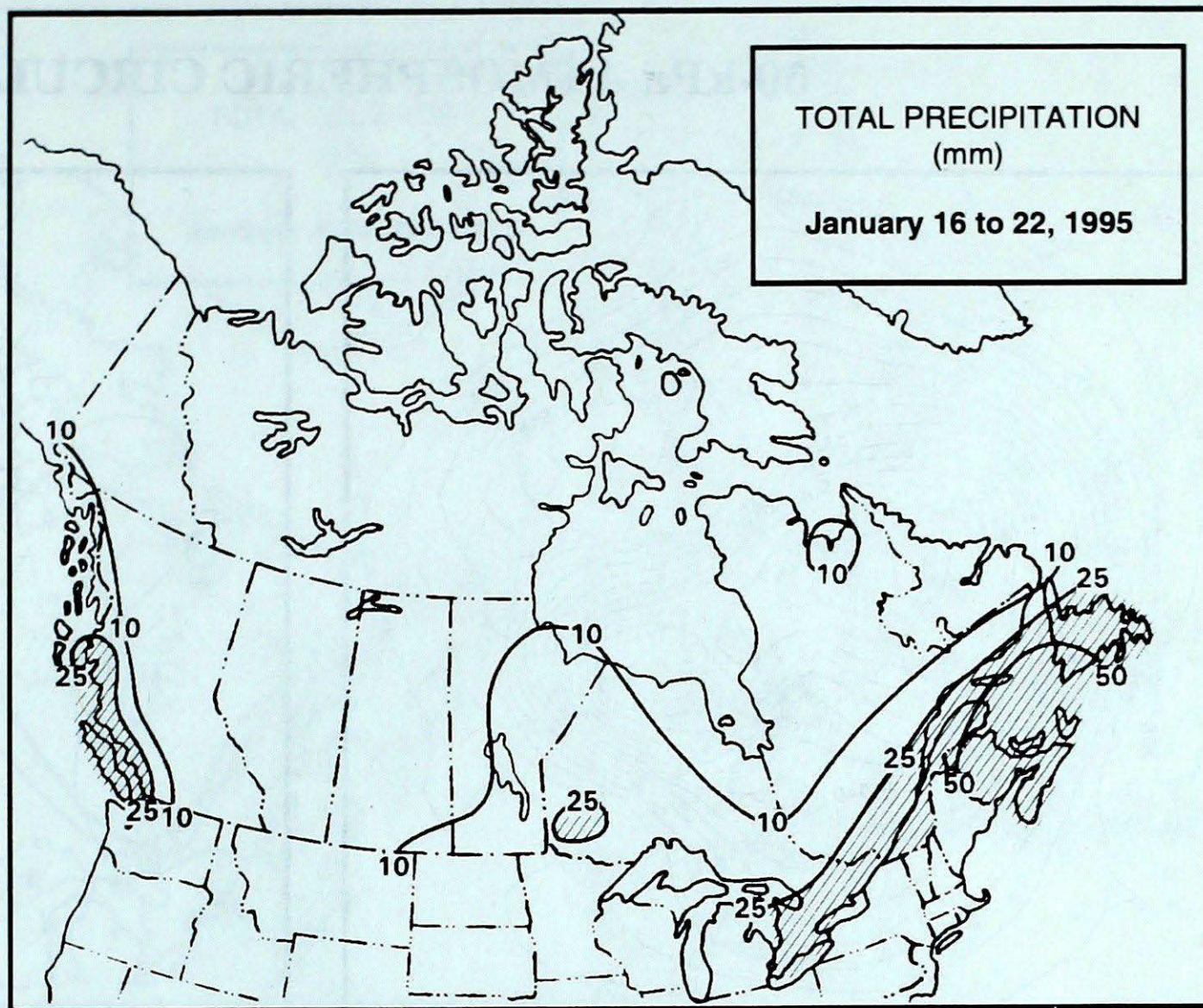
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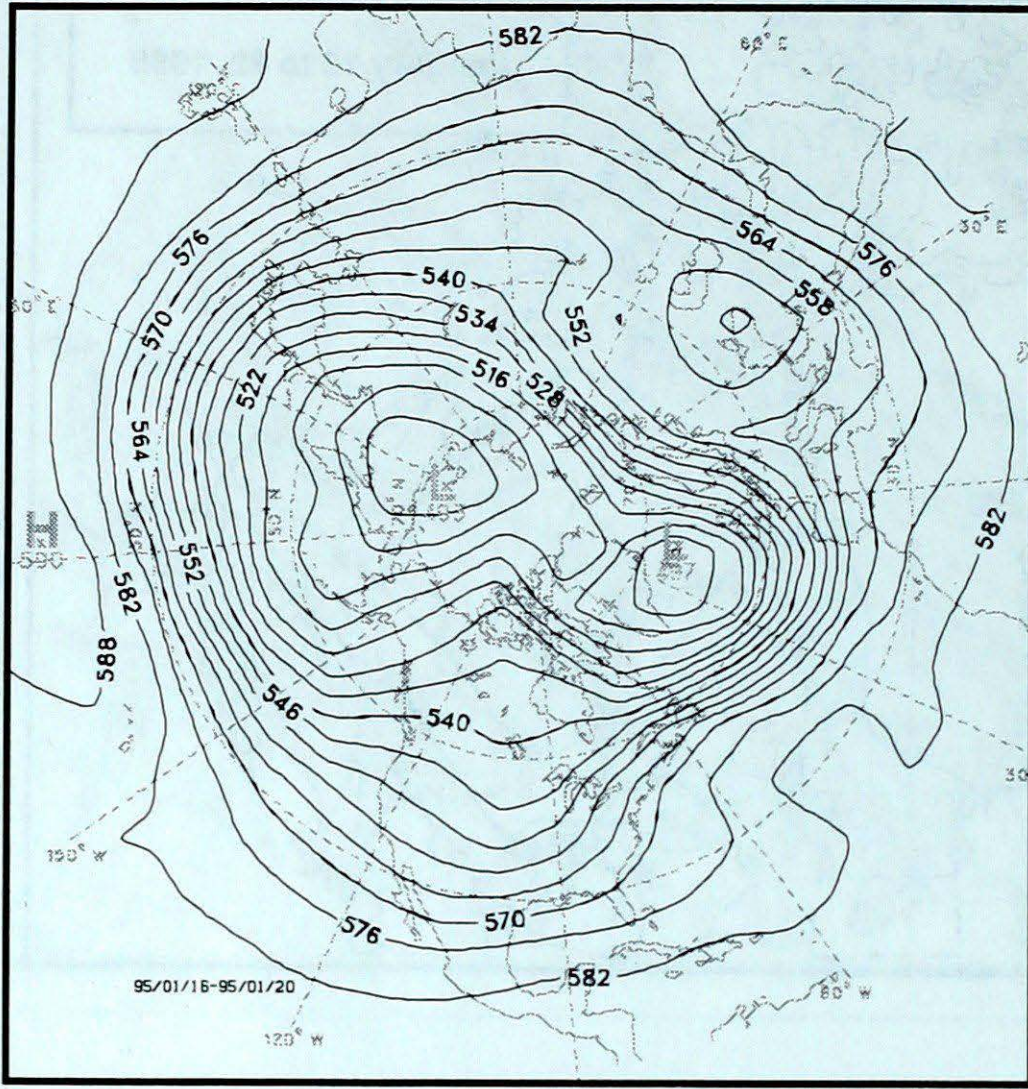
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The purpose of the publication is to make topical information available to the public concerning the Canadian climate and its socio-economic impact.

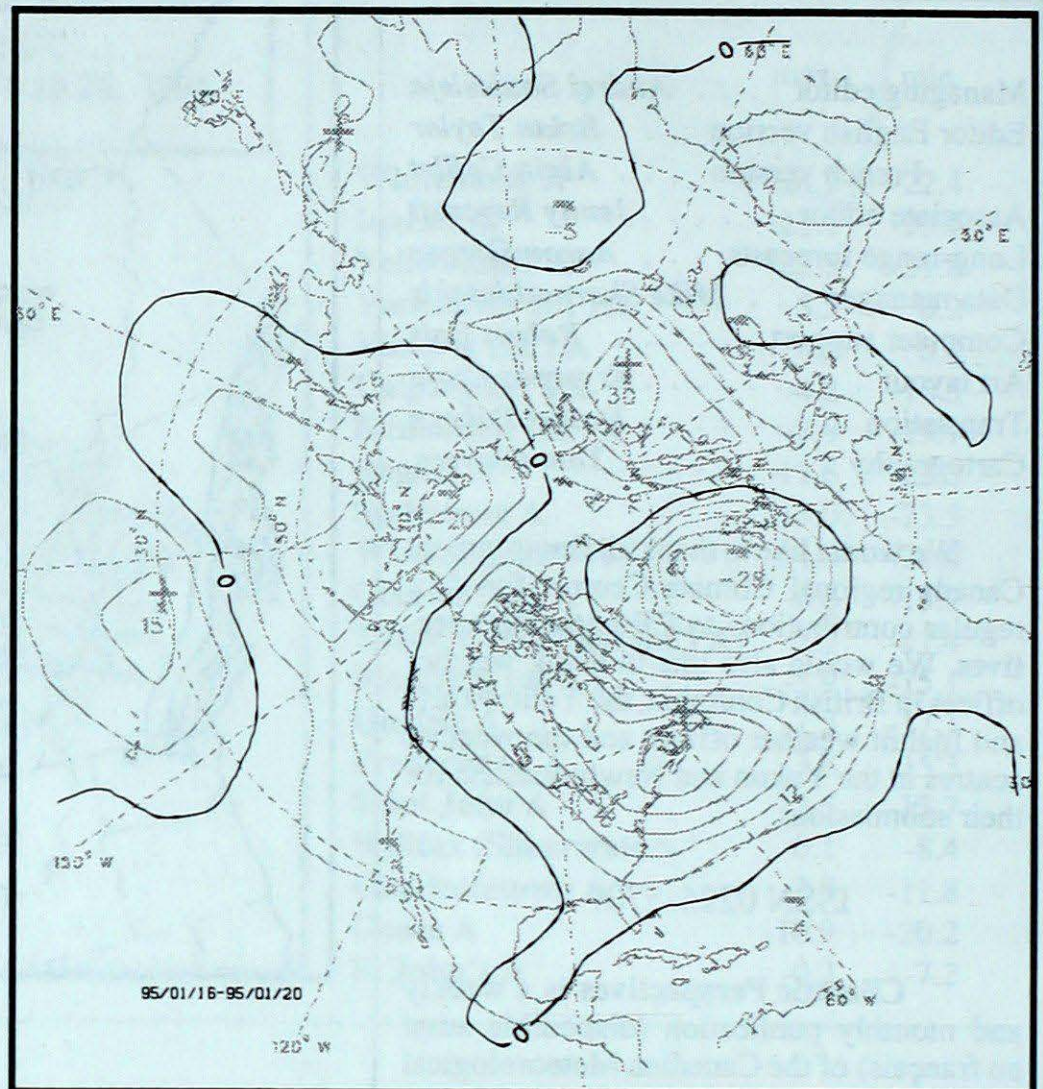
The data in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian synoptic weather stations. Information concerning climatic impacts is gathered from AES contacts with the public and from the media. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of Atmospheric Environment Service.



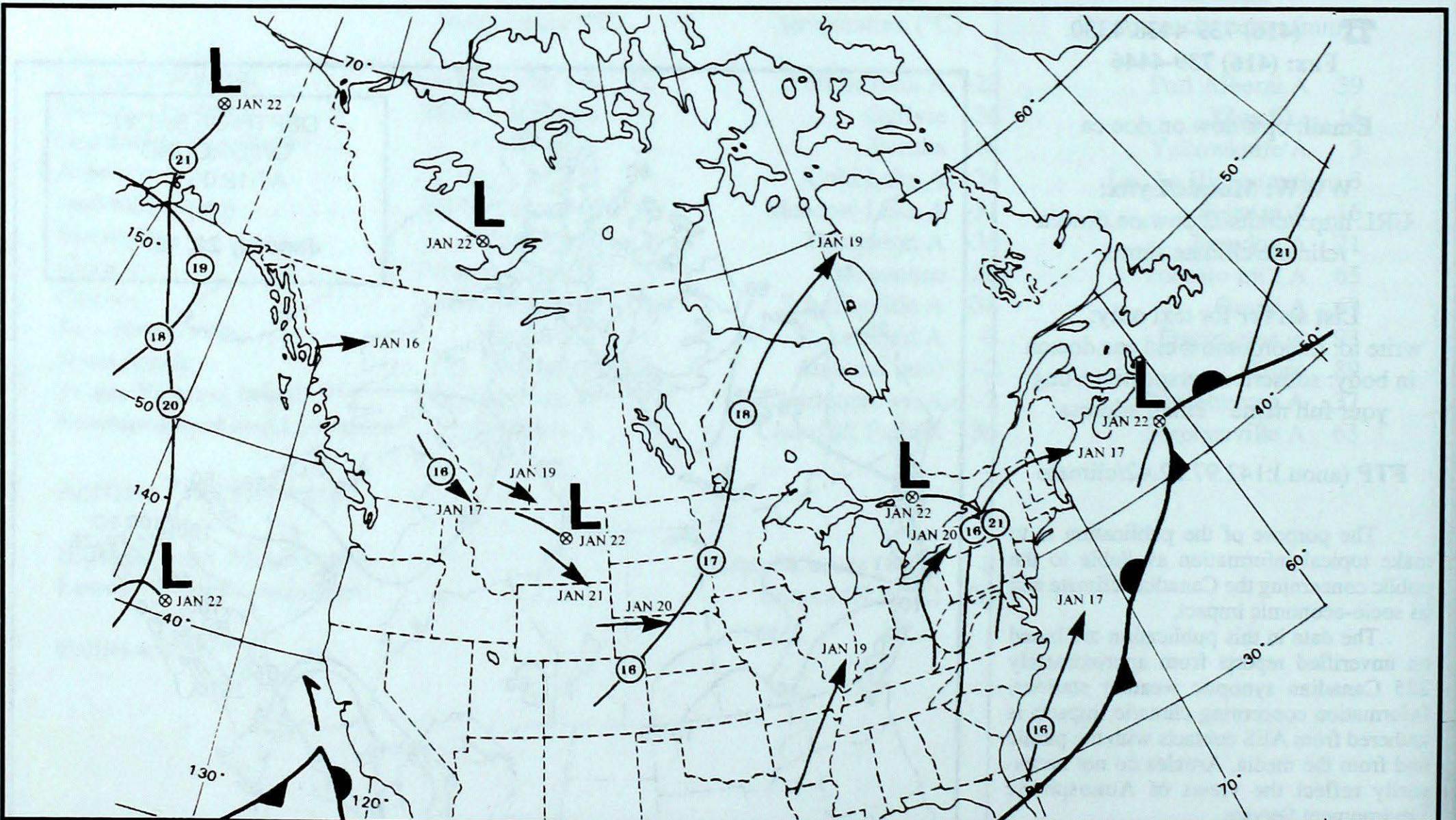
50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



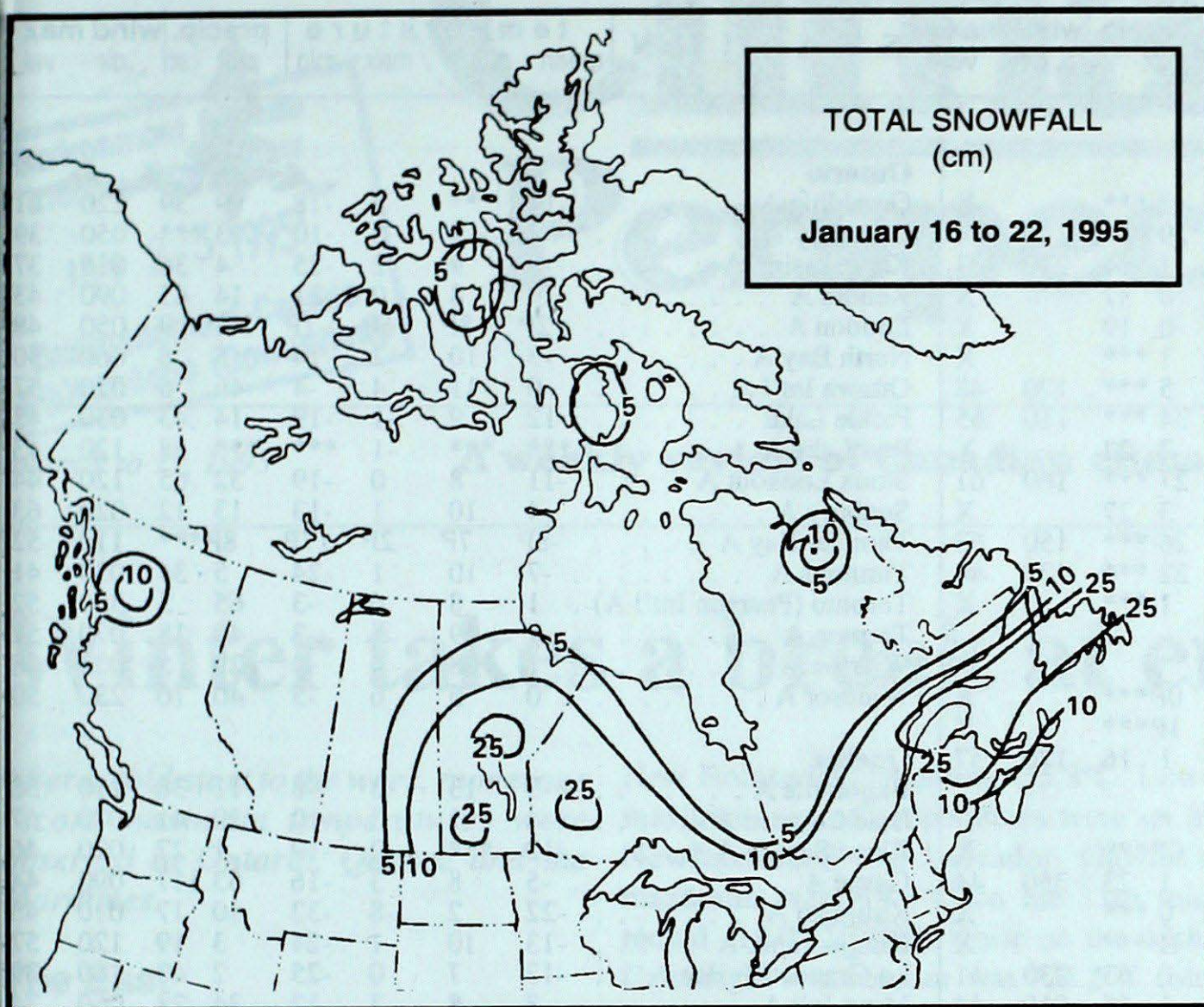
Mean geopotential height
50-kPa level (6-decametre intervals)



Mean geopotential height anomaly
50-kPa level (6-decametre intervals)



Tracks of low pressure centres at 12:00 U.T. each day during the period. Fronts depicted on last day.



**Weekly snowfall extremes
(cm)**

B.C.	..... Terrace	20
Yukon	..... Klondike	16
N.W.T.	..... Yellowknife	6
Alta.	..... High Level	4
Sask.	..... Estevan	18
Man.	..... Brandon	32
Ont.	..... Sioux Lookout	31
Que.	..... Gaspé	60
N.B.	..... Charlo	44
N.S.	..... Sydney	6
P.E.I.	..... Charlottetown	9
Nfld.	..... Gander	40
and Lab.		

P=Less than 7 days data available
Tr=Trace

ACID RAIN REPORT

Site	Day	pH	Amount	Air Path To Site	January 15 to 21, 1995
Egbert, Ont.	15	4.7	17 M	Western Pennsylvania, central Virginia	
	19	4.7	4 R	Western Pennsylvania, central Virginia	
	20	4.6	15 M	Western New York, central Pennsylvania	
	21	4.9	7 M	Eastern Ontario, northern New York	
Dorset*, Ont.	15	4.5	12 M	Western Pennsylvania, central Virginia	
	16	5.1	4 M	Eastern Ontario	
	20	5.2	6 M	Lake Ontario, western New York	
	21	4.7	6 S	Eastern Ontario, southern Quebec, northern New England	
Sutton, Que.	15	5.2	18 R	New England, Atlantic Ocean	
	16	5.1	4 R	New England	
	20			Data not available	
Kejimkujik, N.S.	17	5.0	18 M	Atlantic Ocean	
	20	5.3	16 R	Nova Scotia, Atlantic Ocean	

R = rain (mm) S = snow (cm)
M = mixed rain and snow (mm)

The sampling sites in the table to the left, where the acidity of precipitation is monitored, are all operated by Environment Canada except Dorset*, which is a research station operated by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The table gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the rain or snow that fell at the collection sites, and a description of the path travelled by the moisture-laden air. Environmental damage to lakes and streams is usually observed in sensitive areas regularly receiving precipitation with pH readings less than 4.7, while pH readings less than 4.0 are serious.

STATION	temperature				precip.		wind max		STATION	temperature				precip.		wind max	
	mean	anom	max	min	ptot	st	dir	vel		mean	anom	max	min	ptot	st	dir	vel
British Columbia								Ontario									
Blue River A	-4	3	3	-20	0	***		X	Geraldton A	-11	***	2	-18	9	39	220	61
Comox A	4	1	10	-1	29	***	130	74	Gore Bay A	-2	8	3	-10	13	***	050	39
Cranbrook A	-4	3	5	-10	1	24	210	33	Kapuskasing A	-9	9	2	-25	4	36	010	37
Fort Nelson A	-18	5	-12	-25	0	37		X	Kenora A	-10	8	0	-21	14	45	090	43
Fort St John A	-10	6	2	-29	0	19		X	London A	2P	8P	6P	-1P	36P	9	050	48
Kamloops A	0	6	6	-4	1	***		X	North Bay A	-3	10	2	-14	5	6	060	50
Penticton A	1	3	6	-3	5	***	170	48	Ottawa Int'l A	0	11	4	-4	46	6	070	57
Port Hardy A	5	3	10	-2	34	***	110	65	Pickle Lake	-12	9	-1	-19	14	43	030	43
Prince George A	-6	5	2	-15	7	22		X	Red Lake A	***	***	-1	***	***	58	120	43
Prince Rupert A	3	2	10	-4	27	***	160	61	Sioux Lookout A	-11	8	0	-19	32	65	120	44
Smithers A	-6	5	3	-14	3	27		X	Sudbury A	-4	10	1	-13	13	12	020	63
Vancouver Int'l A	5	2	12	-1	26	***	150	63	Thunder Bay A	-8P	7P	2P	-17P	8P	***	110	52
Victoria Int'l A	6	2	10	-1	22	***	130	44	Timmins A	-7	10	1	-24	5	34	030	41
Williams Lake A	-6	2	2	-15	1	***		X	Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	1	8	6	-3	65	5	350	52
Yukon Territory								Quebec									
Teslin (aut)	-13P	***P	-4P	-22P	0P	***		X	Bagotville A	-3	13	3	-8	11	38	110	56
Watson Lake A	-18P	8P	0P	-25P	1P	***		X	Baie Comeau A	-4	11	3	-10	29	41	070	67
Whitehorse A	-7	11	2	-24	1	16	170	57	Blanc Sablon A	-12	***	-2	-19	1	27	020	46
Northwest Territories								New Brunswick									
Alert	-37P	-5P	-34P	-40P	0P	***		X	Fredericton A	0	10	12	-4	93	14	060	70
Baker Lake A	-22	11	-14	-32	1	23	350	44	Miscou Island (aut)	-2	8	4	-5	0	***		X
Cambridge Bay A	-22	12	-12	-34	0	***		X	Moncton A	0	8	14	-3	61	9	050	46
Clyde A	-27P	-1P	-16P	-39P	1P	***		X	Saint John A	2	10	10	-3	46	3	020	48
Coppermine A	-13	18	-7	-24	0	63	230	41	St Leonard A	-2	***	9	-8	78	38	070	33
Coral Harbour A	-23	6	-15	-30	1	15	010	44	Nova Scotia								
Eureka	-39	-2	-28	-44	0	9		X	Greenwood A	4	9	17	-1	44	***	080	59
Fort Smith A	-12	13	-8	-20	0	***	140	30	Shearwater A	4	8	15	-1	47	***	080	52
Hall Beach A	-23	7	-12	-38	3	32	300	61	Sydney A	***	***	17	***	***	10	250	59
Inuvik A	-17	12	-8	-25	1	39		X	Yarmouth A	5	8	14	0	36	***	190	56
Iqaluit A	-24	1	-15	-33	0	21	330	61	Prince Edward Island								
Mould Bay A	-23P	12P	-16P	-32P	0P	***		X	Charlottetown A	0	8	9	-2	37	10	070	43
Norman Wells A	-17	12	-8	-30	1	23	130	56	East Point (auto)	1	***	9	-2	***	***		X
Resolute A	-23	10	-15	-38	3	52	080	50	Newfoundland and Labrador								
Yellowknife A	-14	14	-9	-24	3	***	110	44	Cartwright	-14	-2	-1	-24	1	92	210	83
Alberta								95/01/16-95/01/22									
Calgary Int'l A	-5	5	7	-15	2	3	320	41	Churchill Falls A	-21	1	-3	-36	0	***	210	33
Cold Lake A	-16	1	-7	-24	2	28		X	Gander Int'l A	-5	1	5	-14	42	59	210	44
Edmonton Namao A	-10	4	0	-17	1	17		X	Goose A	-16	0	-1	-28	0	35	230	33
Fort McMurray A	-14P	7P	-8P	-20P	1P	***		X	Stephenville A	-3	2	3	-8	63	53	060	56
Grande Prairie A	-13	3	-1	-22	2	40		X	St John's A	-3	1	7	-12	36	***	260	83
High Level A	-14	6	-8	-22	3	28		X	St Lawrence	-1	4	6	-7	29	13		X
Lethbridge A	-6P	3P	5P	-17P	0P	***		X	Wabush Lake A	-19	4	-3	-33	1	65		X
Medicine Hat A	-10	1	4	-20	2	7	290	46									
Peace River A	-11P	7P	0P	-20P	3P	19		X									
Saskatchewan																	
Estevan A	-14	2	-7	-22	16	19	290	35									
La Ronge A	-16	4	-9	-28	2	38		X									
Regina A	-13	4	-8	-21	3	20	320	39									
Saskatoon A	-13	5	-6	-22	3	***		X									
Swift Current A	-12	2	-4	-19	5	***		X									
Yorkton A	-13	6	-9	-20	8	41		X									
Manitoba																	
Brandon A	-15	5	-9	-26	21	38	060	44									
Churchill A	-19	8	-8	-30	10	***	080	54									
Lynn Lake A	-18	7	-12	-25	4	24		X									
The Pas A	-15	7	-11	-22	6	34		X									
Thompson A	-17	6	-9	-35	14	42		X									
Winnipeg Int'l A	-14	6	-2	-31	12	23	320	44									

mean = mean weekly temperature, °C
max = maximum weekly temperature, °C
min = minimum weekly temperature, °C
anom = mean temperature anomaly, °C
ptot = weekly precipitation total in mm
st = snow thickness on the ground in cm
dir = direction of max wind, deg. from north
vel = wind speed in km/h
X = no observation
P = less than 7 days of data
***** = missing data when going to printing.