Weekly

Climatic Perspectives

February 6 to 12, 1995 | **A weekly review of Canadian climate and water** | Vol. 17 No. 7

Abrupt change

The Yukon and the West experienced two different weather regimes. The week began with spring-like weather but a massive cold arctic airmass invaded by the end of the week.

A southwesterly flow kept the Yukon 8 to 12 degrees above normal for the first few days. Haines Junction recorded 8.1°C on the 8th (old record 6.1°C, 1971). Temperatures dropped to near-normal values February 9/10 accompanied by significant snowfalls across the southwestern Yukon. By week's end, Whitehorse recorded 16 cm of snow, giving ideal conditions for a cold February 12 start of "The Yukon Quest" - a 1600-km dog-sled race.

Milder-than-normal temperatures covered all of British Columbia until the 9th. Record-maximum temperatures were recorded at several stations, including three consecutive days (February 7-9) at Castlegar, of which the 7th was the mildest day (8.9°C, old record 5.6°C, 1970). Cold air reached the south, by the 11th. Western areas of Victoria received 10 to 15 cm of snow and Thetis Lake, 8 km northwest of Victoria Harbour, 33 cm. The colder conditions in the north firmed the winter roads for the logging and oil industries.

A large Pacific disturbance brought up to six hours of freezing rain, on the 6th, to the Grande Prairie and Peace River areas of Alberta. The mountain parks received 10 to 20 cm of snow by late on the 7th. The arctic front pushed southwards, on the 9th, sending temperatures into the minus twenties. High wind chills prevailed over the weekend.

Mild air pushed into southwestern Saskatchewan until the 8th when Eastend Cypress recorded 5.0°C. A series of disturbances gave up to 11 cm of snow to southeastern Saskatchewan and 15 cm to southwestern Manitoba, by the 9th. Arctic air replaced the snowy conditions on the 10th, as temperatures in the south dropped to as low as -30.1°C, at Winnipeg.

The East

Cold temperatures, high wind chills and heavy snowfalls in the traditional snow belt areas, highlighted Ontario's weather. From February 8-12, 20 to 40 cm of lake-effect snow fell in the Lake Huron/Georgian Bay area, resulting in many closed roads and multi-vehicle accidents. More than eleven hundred people were stranded in Durham (50 km south of Owen Sound), on the 12th, due to snow-clogged local highways. In Quebec, temperatures were up to six degrees above normal in the north but eight degrees below normal in the Lower St. Lawrence region.

No significant weather systems moved through the Maritimes, accounting for precipitation totals of less than 11 mm. Temperatures averaged three to seven degrees below normal. Record-cold temperatures were observed, February 7: Chatham, New Brunswick, recorded a minimum of -30.7°C (old record -30.0°C, 1890) and Summerside, P.E.I., -25.0°C (old record -22.2°C, 1905).

Newfoundland continued to be affected by a complex disturbance, at the start of the week. Rain and freezing rain fell in the southeast, and snow, elsewhere. By the 8th, a cold westerly flow gave below-normal temperatures to the Island and the onshore flow from the Gulf of St. Lawrence provided Daniel's Harbour with 21 cm of snow. Stephenville recorded snow every day for a weekly total of 42 cm. Bitterly-cold air covered Labrador, on the 7th. Churchill Falls recorded -41.6°C on the 10th.

Rescue in N.W.T.

Inuvik (10.2 degrees above normal) had the greatest positive weekly temperature departure from normal, in the country, followed by Iqaluit (9.3 degrees). On the 6th, the northern Mackenzie was very mild - the temperature at Inuvik rose to 1.4°C (old record -4.7°C, 1989) and Fort McPherson recorded 7.6°C. In the south, Fort Liard recorded 11.0°C, February 7. Six turbot fishermen from Pangnirtung were stranded on an ice pan in Cumberland Sound, February 9, as a large block of ice broke off from the ice floe edge. After a day of floating on the ice, in strong easterly winds, they were rescued by a local search and rescue team.

A Look Ahead...

For the week of February 20, temperatures are expected to be above normal in the southern Prairie Provinces, Ontario, southern Quebec, and the Atlantic Provinces. Below-normal temperatures are likely for British Columbia, the Yukon and the Arctic islands. Elsewhere, temperatures will be near normal. Significant precipitation is expected for coastal and southern B.C., southwestern Alberta, the southern halves of Ontario and Quebec, and the Atlantic Provinces.

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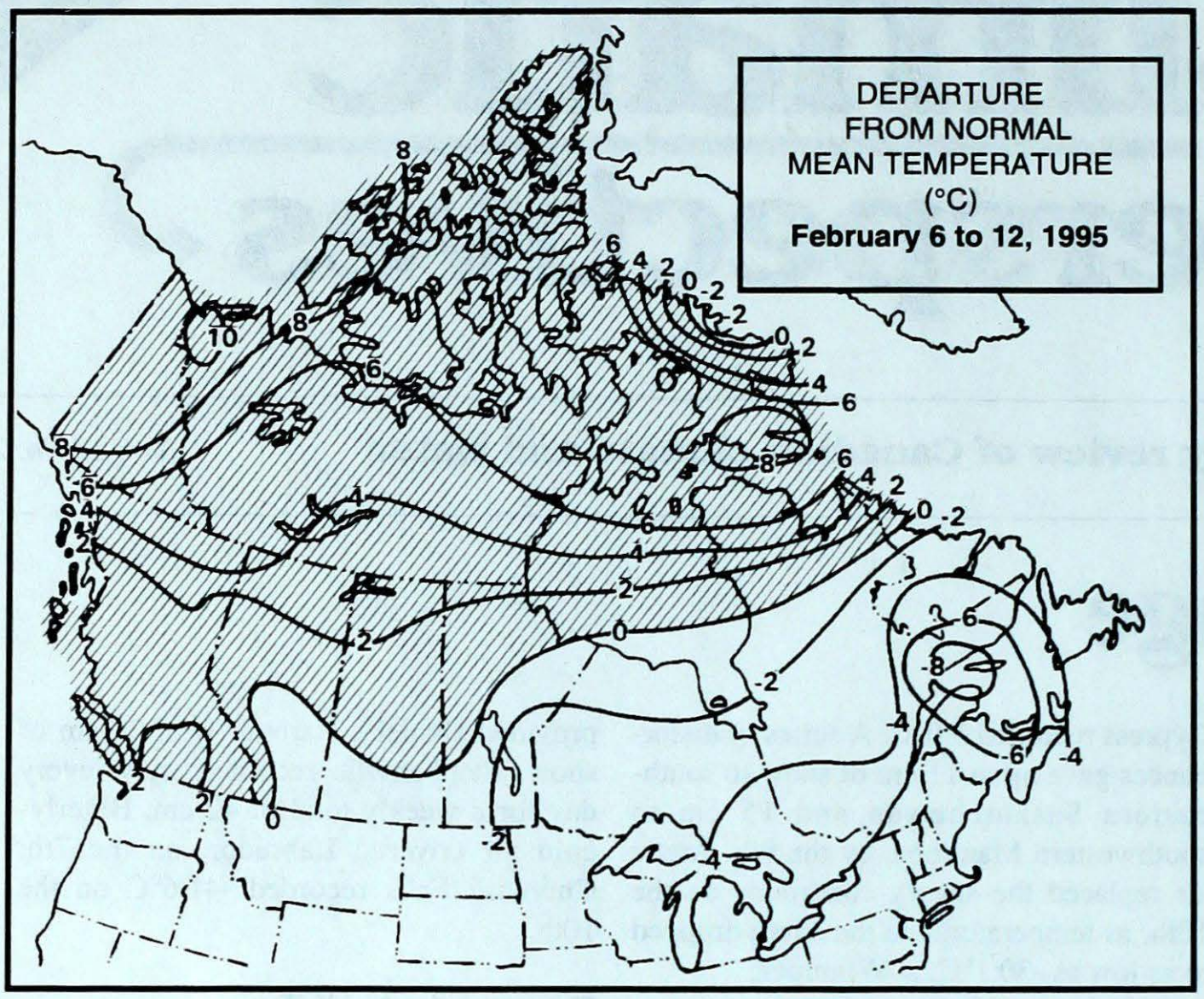
Canada



Weekly normal temperatures (°C)

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	-8.5	-17.7
Iqaluit A	-20.5	-29.5
Yellowknife A	-20.7	-29.4
Vancouver Int'l A	7.6	1.5
Victoria Int'l A	8.2	1.6
Calgary Int'l A	-0.7	-12.0
Edmonton Int'l A	-4.1	-15.4
Regina A	-8.0	-18.9
Saskatoon A	-8.9	-19.6
Winnipeg Int'l A	-10.5	-21.2
Ottawa Int'l A	-5.8	-15.2
Toronto Int'l A	-2.5	-11.8
Montréal Int'l A	-5.4	-14.7
Québec A	-7.1	-16.8
Fredericton A	-3.3	-15.0
Saint John A	-2.8	-13.4
Halifax (Shearwater)	-0.8	-8.8
Charlottetown A	-3.6	-11.9
Goose A	-9.8	-20.1
St John's A	-0.8	-7.5

Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes

	Maximum temperature (°C)		Minimum temperature (°C)		Greatest precipitation (mm)	
British Columbia	Abbotsford A	18	Fort Nelson A	-29	Comox A	14
Yukon Territory	Haines Junction	8	Old Crow	-38	Whitehorse A	8
Northwest Territories	Fort Liard A	11	Eureka	-46	Fort Simpson A	12
Alberta	Lethbridge A	8	High Level A	-32	Fort McMurray A	4
Saskatchewan	Eastend Cypress	5	Cree Lake	-30	Yorkton A	13
Manitoba	The Pas A	1	Gillam A	-39	Brandon A	12
Ontario	Windsor A	2	Winisk (aut)	-41	Wiarton A	22
Quebec	Natashquan A	-3	La Grande IV A	-42	Blanc Sablon A	20
New Brunswick	Saint John A	3	St Stephen (aut)	-33	St. Leonard A	7
Nova Scotia	Yarmouth A	4	Amherst (aut)	-26	Greenwood A	11
Prince Edward Island	East Point (aut)	-1	Charlottetown A	-25	Charlottetown A	8
Newfoundland and Labrador	Argentia A	5	Churchill Falls A	-41	Cartwright	46

Across The Country...

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

95/02/06-95/02/12

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES
VOLUME 17

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We would like to thank all Environment Canada regional Climate Centres for their regular contributions to **Climatic Perspectives**. We would also like to thank weather offices in British Columbia, the Yellowknife and Iqaluit weather offices and the weather centres in the Yukon and Newfoundland for their submissions.

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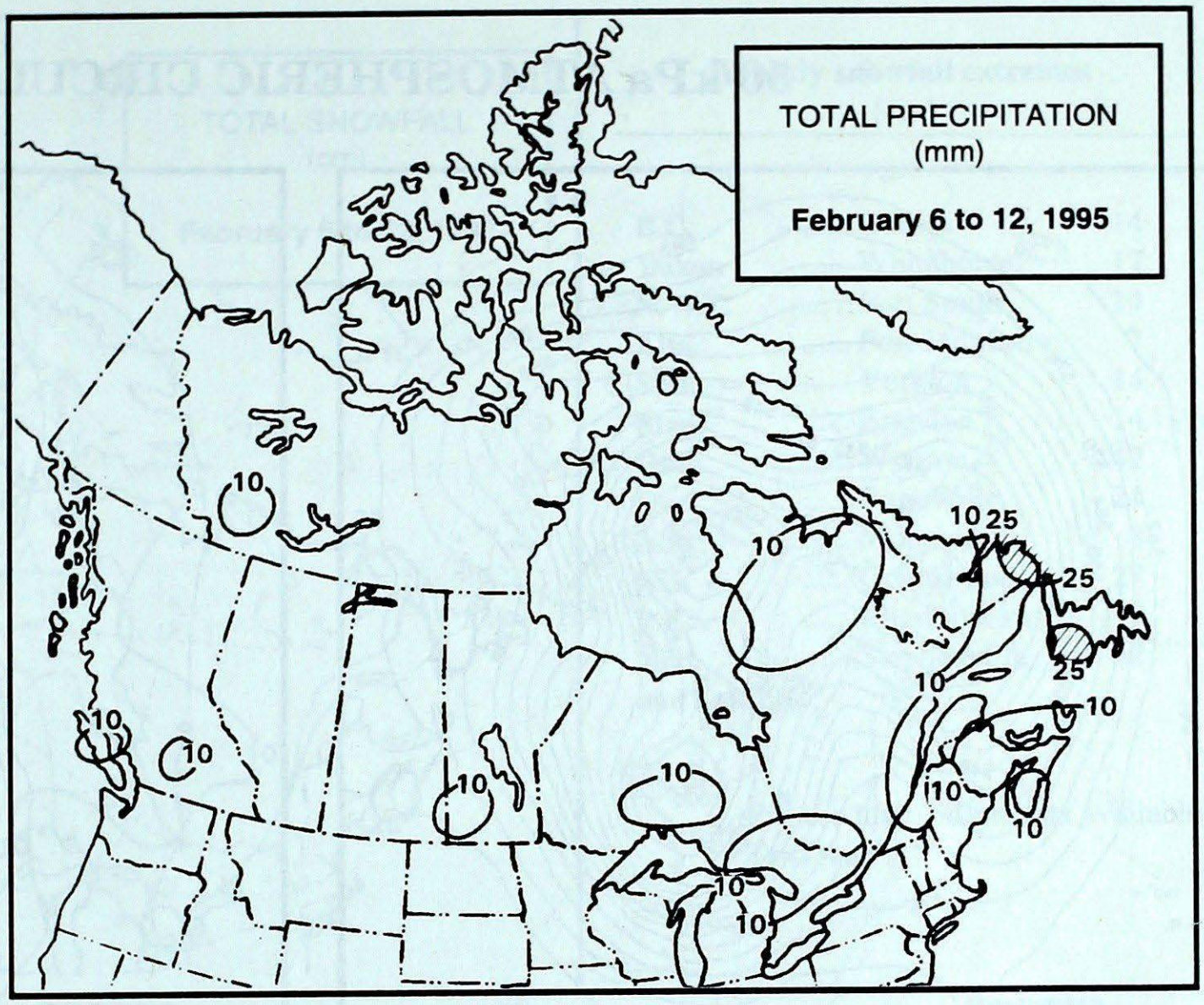
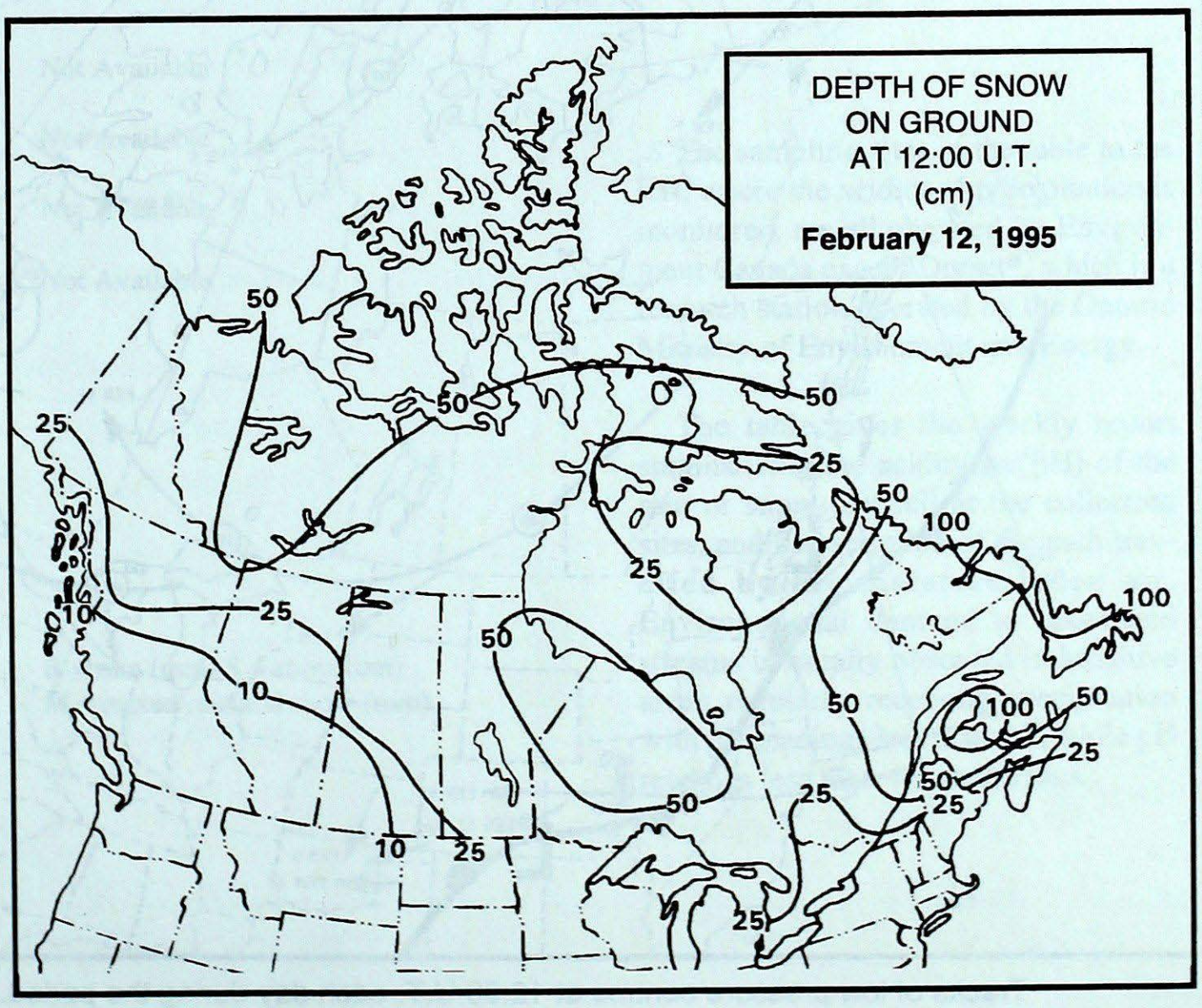
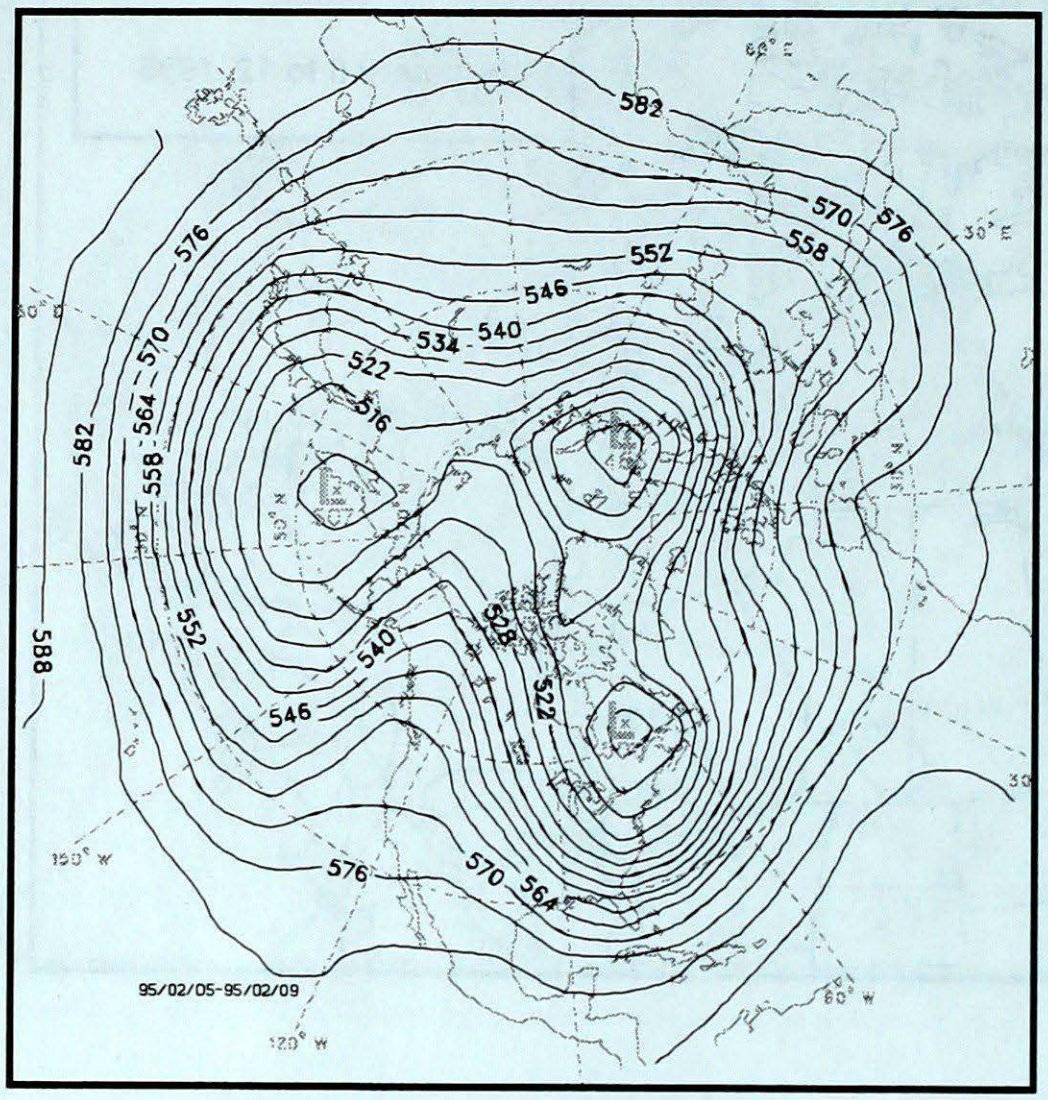
The purpose of the publication is to make topical information available to the public concerning the Canadian climate and its socio-economic impact.

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.

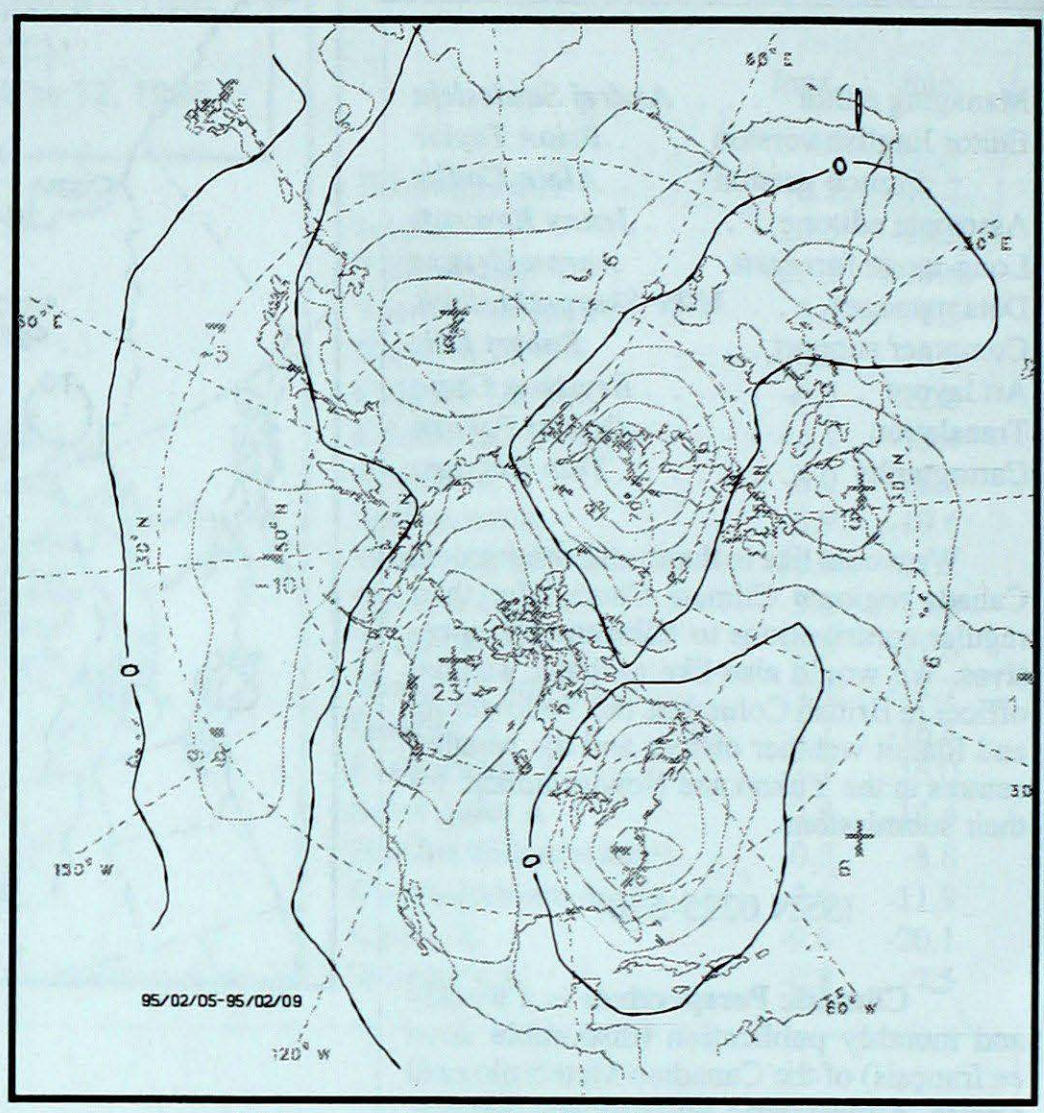




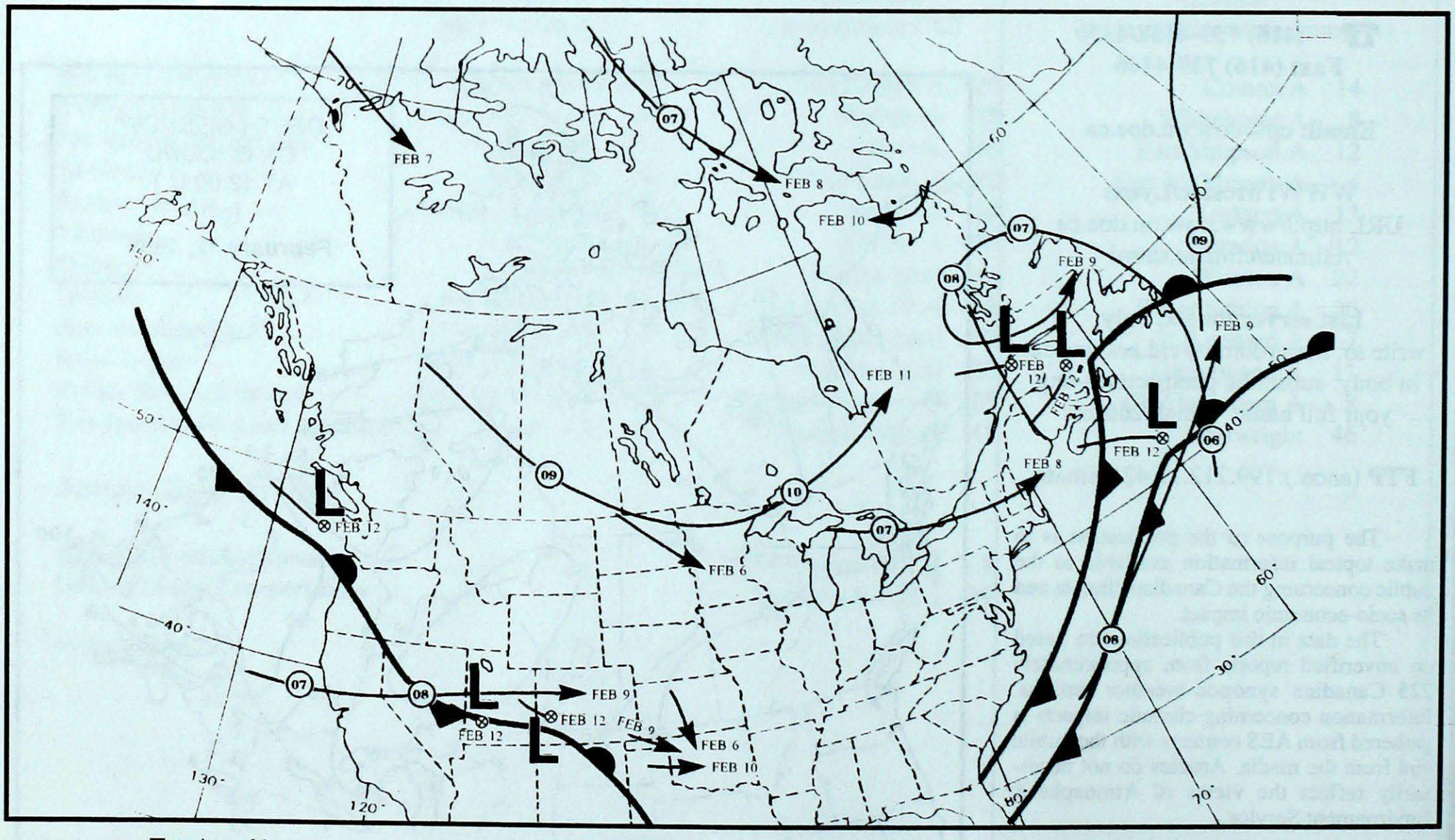
50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



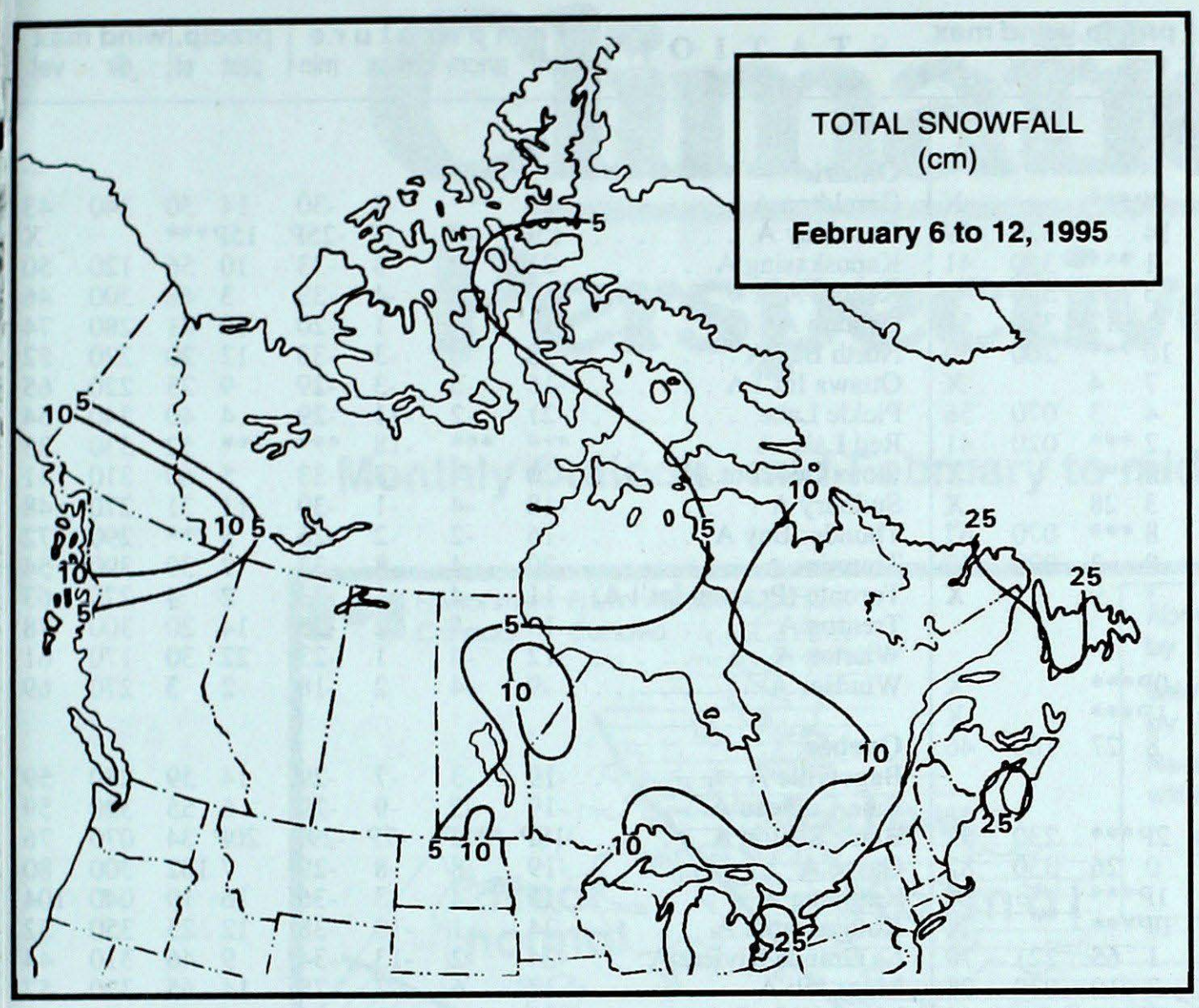
Mean geopotential height
50-kPa level (6-decametre intervals)



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.	..... Comox	14
Yukon	..... Whitehorse	17
N.W.T.	..... Fort Smith	14
Alta.	..... Fort McMurray	7
Sask.	..... Yorkton	14
Man.	..... Brandon	14
Ont.	..... Wiarton	42
Que.	..... Bagotville	21
N.B.	..... Moncton	8
N.S.	..... Greenwood	27
P.E.I.	..... Charlottetown	7
Nfld. and Lab.	..... Stephenville	42

P=Less than 7 days data available
Tr=Trace

ACID RAIN REPORT

February 5 to 11, 1995

Site	Day	pH Amount	Air Path To Site
Egbert, Ont.			Not Available
Dorset*, Ont.			Not Available
Sutton, Qué.			Not Available
Kejimkujik, N.S.			Not Available

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 mean	anom	max	min	precip. ptot	st	wind max dir	vel
British Columbia								
Blue River A	-1P	4P	8P	-11P	0P	***		X
Comox A	6	2	14	-4	14	9	320	39
Cranbrook A	-4	0	7	-21	1	***	350	41
Fort Nelson A	-13	5	6	-29	3	39	340	46
Fort St John A	-9	2	5	-25	1	12	320	52
Kamloops A	2	4	9	-9	10	***	260	59
Penticton A	3	2	11	-6	7	4		X
Port Hardy A	5	1	10	-1	4	3	070	56
Prince George A	-4	2	4	-18	2	***	020	41
Prince Rupert A	6P	3P	9P	3P	6P	***		X
Smithers A	-4	2	3	-20	3	28		X
Vancouver Int'l A	5	1	10	-1	8	***	070	67
Victoria Int'l A	7	2	16	0	8	3	070	63
Williams Lake A	-4	0	3	-18	3	9		X
Yukon Territory								
Teslin (aut)	-14P	***P	2P	-31P	0P	***		X
Watson Lake A	-16P	3P	0P	-37P	1P	***		X
Whitehorse A	-4	9	7	-19	8	27	160	46
Northwest Territories								
Alert	-30P	3P	-24P	-35P	2P	***	230	57
Baker Lake A	-27	6	-15	-36	0	26	330	82
Cambridge Bay A	-24P	10P	0P	-33P	1P	***		X
Clyde A	-39P	-12P	-29P	-44P	0P	***		X
Coppermine A	-20	1	-9	-28	1	65	221	70
Coral Harbour A	-22	7	-12	-31	2	10	030	98
Eureka	-30P	8P	-19P	-46P	3P	***		X
Fort Smith A	-20	2	-1	-39	1	39	310	37
Hall Beach A	-24	8	-14	-39	3	38	160	57
Inuvik A	-20	10	2	-33	1	42	320	32
Iqaluit A	-16	9	-5	-36	6	27	080	59
Mould Bay A	-26P	9P	-17P	-36P	0P	***	300	78
Norman Wells A	-20	6	-5	-34	2	23	130	39
Resolute A	-27	7	-20	-34	6	52	080	83
Yellowknife A	-21	4	-6	-32	1	33	360	46
Alberta								
Calgary Int'l A	-8	-1	8	-23	2	***	350	107
Cold Lake A	-13	0	3	-27	0	23	040	63
Edmonton Namao A	-11	-1	5	-24	2	16	340	72
Fort McMurray A	-13	2	6	-26	4	21	310	41
Grande Prairie A	-11P	0P	6P	-27P	4P	32	260	63
High Level A	-15	4	7	-32	2	24	340	56
Lethbridge A	-6	-1	8	-23	0	***		X
Medicine Hat A	-9	-1	6	-23	1	3	340	52
Peace River A	-12	1	6	-27	1	17	230	63
Saskatchewan								
Estevan A	-15	-3	1	-27	0	19	320	83
La Ronge A	-17	1	2	-28	2	32	320	70
Regina A	-14	-1	0	-26	2	13	320	98
Saskatoon A	-15	0	-1	-26	0	***	020	69
Swift Current A	-12	-2	3	-26	5	***	330	74
Yorkton A	-15	0	-1	-27	13	44	320	63
Manitoba								
Brandon A	-17	-2	-1	-29	12	32	040	52
Churchill A	-24	2	-12	-33	4	***	340	70
Lynn Lake A	-21	1	-5	-28	1	32	320	65
The Pas A	-18	0	1	-27	1	28	320	61
Thompson A	-21	1	-6	-30	6	48	320	61
Winnipeg Int'l A	-17	-2	-1	-30	0	24	330	61

STATION	temperature mean	anom	max	min	precip. ptot	st	wind max dir	vel
Ontario								
Geraldton A	-20	***	-8	-30	14	50	340	43
Gore Bay A	-15P	-4P	1P	-25P	15P	***		X
Kapuskasing A	-21	-3	-8	-33	10	56	120	50
Kenora A	-19	-4	-4	-33	3	48	300	46
London A	-11	-4	1	-20	19	31	280	74
North Bay A	-18	-6	-3	-33	12	20	270	52
Ottawa Int'l A	-16	-5	-3	-29	9	25	220	65
Pickle Lake	-21	-2	-11	-29	4	40	340	54
Red Lake A	***	***	-18	***	***	52	330	33
Sioux Lookout A	-20	-4	-8	-33	5	60	310	41
Sudbury A	-18	-4	-1	-30	11	31	270	48
Thunder Bay A	-16	-2	-2	-26	5	***	290	72
Timmins A	-20	-4	-8	-32	7	39	390	54
Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	-11	-4	1	-23	2	4	270	63
Trenton A	-13	-5	2	-25	14	20	300	78
Wiarton A	-12	-4	1	-23	22	30	170	61
Windsor A	-9	-4	2	-18	2	3	270	69
Quebec								
Bagotville A	-19	-3	-7	-29	14	59	280	59
Baie Comeau A	-19	-5	-9	-29	6	55	320	59
Blanc Sablon A	-18P	***P	-7P	-29P	20P	34	070	76
Gaspé A	-19	-8	-8	-29	7	182	300	80
Kuujjuaq A	-18	4	-3	-36	16	19	040	104
Kuujjuarapik A	-24	-1	-10	-38	12	25	350	52
La Grande Rivière A	-24	-2	-13	-34	9	46	310	44
Mont Joli A	-17	-6	-7	-25	14	65	320	57
Montréal Int'l A	-15	-5	-3	-27	0	***	280	33
Natashquan A	-19	-7	-3	-31	17	94	360	80
Québec A	-17	-5	-4	-27	12	90	240	65
Schefferville A	-29P	-7P	-21P	-41P	1P	***		X
Sept-Îles A	-22	-9	-11	-34	13	71	210	65
Sherbrooke A	-18P	-5P	0P	-31P	12P	***		X
Val-d'Or A	-22	-6	-7	-33	8	17	160	44
New Brunswick								
Fredericton A	-16	-7	-2	-30	5	64	270	76
Miscou Island (aut)	-15P	-6P	-6P	-24P	5P	***		X
Moncton A	-15	-6	-2	-29	7	30	260	76
Saint John A	-14	-6	3	-27	4	15	280	65
St Leonard A	-18	***	-1	-30	8	103		X
Nova Scotia								
Greenwood A	-10	-4	3	-21	11	17	270	89
Shearwater A	-9P	-4P	2P	-20P	2P	3	260	72
Sydney A	***	***	-1	***	***	17	260	48
Yarmouth A	-7	-3	4	-17	11	4	310	76
Prince Edward Island								
Charlottetown A	-13	-5	-2	-25	8	38	300	80
East Point (auto)	-11P	***P	-1P	-24P	5P	***		X
Newfoundland and Labrador								
Cartwright	-14	-2	2	-29	46	138	340	83
Churchill Falls A	-24	-4	0	-41	0	***		X
Gander Int'l A	-11	-4	1	-22	11	125	230	76
Goose A	-17P	-2P	-1P	-28P	3P	31	210	44
Stephenville A	-9	-3	1	-16	41	98	240	104
St John's A	-7	-3	2	-14	19	97	270	95
St Lawrence	-6	-2	1	-12	20	45		X
Wabush Lake A	-26	-5	-7	-39	8	96	250	46

95/02/06-95/02/12

mean = mean weekly temperature, °C
max = maximum weekly temperature, °C
min = minimum weekly temperature, °C
anom = mean temperature anomaly , °C

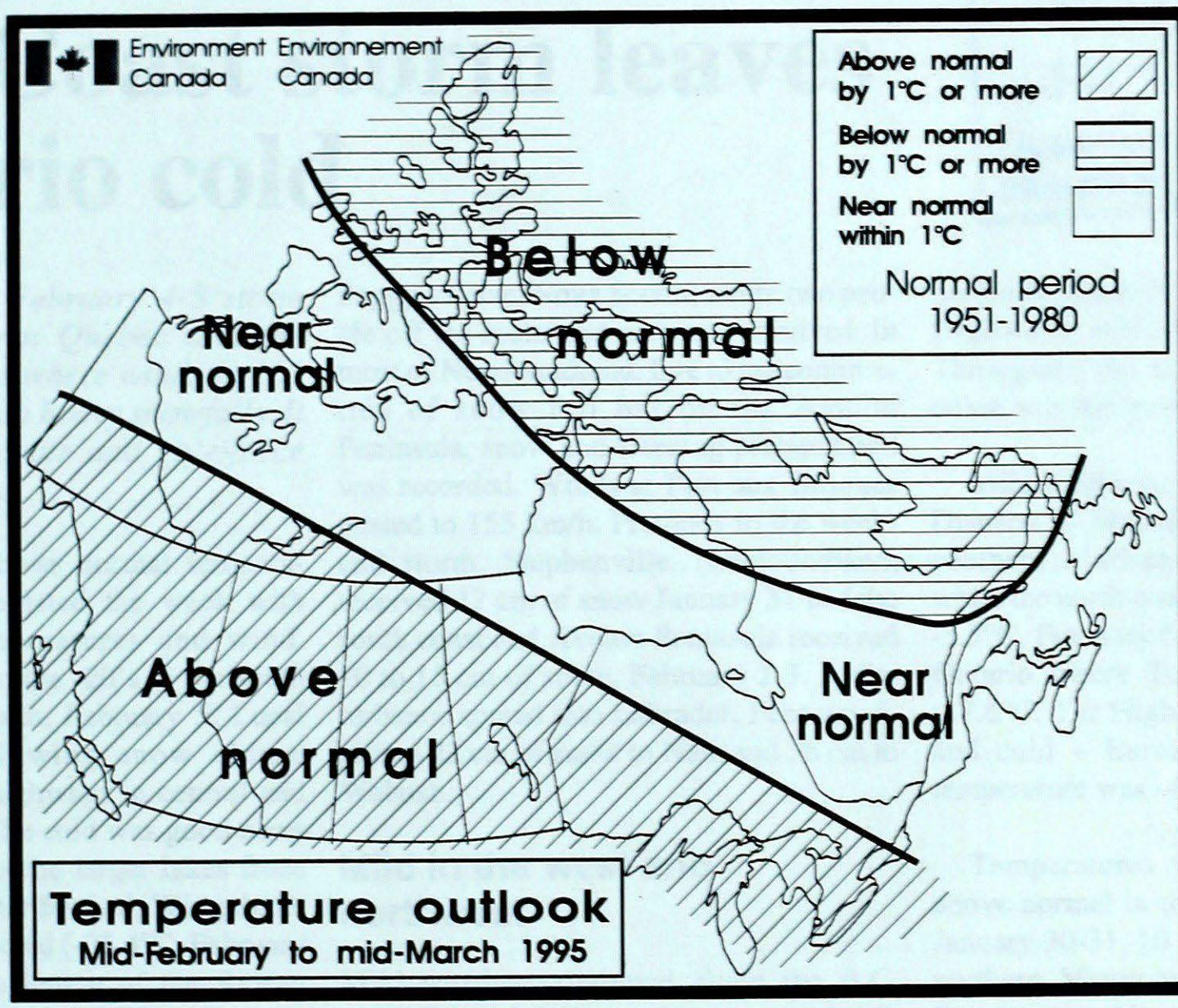
ptot = weekly precipitation total in mm
st = snow thickness on the ground in cm
dir = direction of max wind, deg. from north
vel = wind speed in km/h

— Annotations —
X = no observation
P = less than 7 days of data
***** = missing data when going to printing.

Outlook

Climatic Perspectives

Monthly Outlook - mid-February to mid-March 1995



Normal temperatures (°C) mid-February to mid-March 1995

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Whitehorse	-5	-16	**Toronto**	-1	-8
Yellowknife	-17	-27	**Ottawa**	-2	-11
Iqaluit	-20	-29	**Montréal**	-1	-10
Vancouver	9	2	**Québec**	-3	-12
Victoria	9	2	**Halifax**	-2	-5
Calgary	0	-11	**Fredericton**	0	-11
Edmonton	-3	-15	**Charlottetown**	-2	-9
Regina	-5	-16	**Goose Bay**	-6	-17
Winnipeg	-7	-17	**St. John's**	0	-6

Normal Temperatures (1951-1980)

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