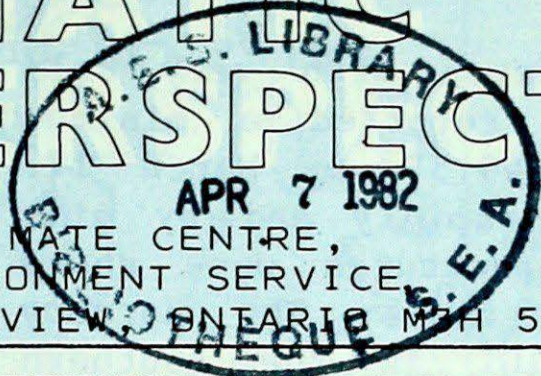


CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES



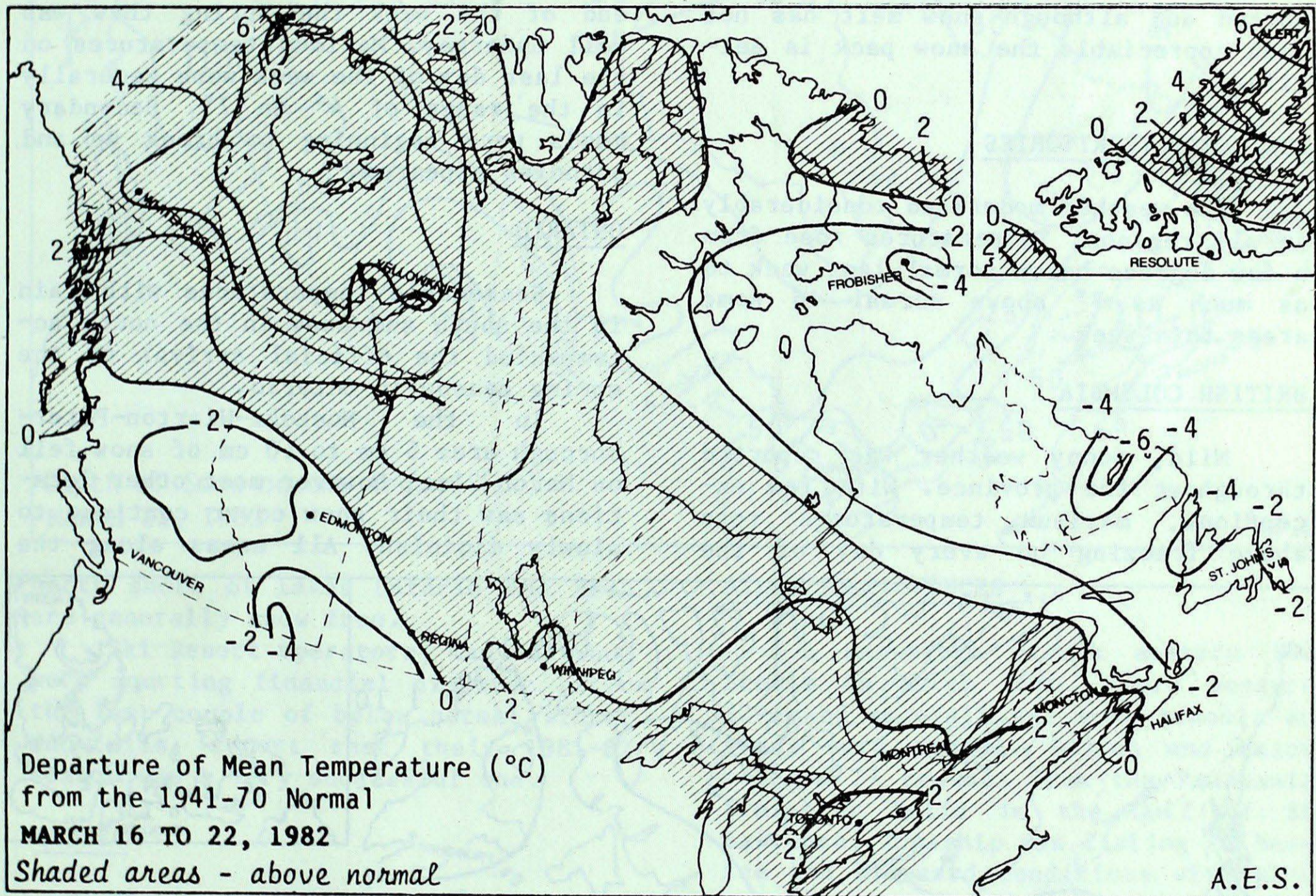
Canada

THE CANADIAN CLIMATE CENTRE,
ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE
4905 DUFFERIN ST., DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO M3H 5T4

MARCH 26, 1982

(Aussi disponible en français)

VOL.4 NO.11



WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD - MARCH 15 TO 22, 1982

Winter storm strikes Halifax as Vancouver basks in sun

A winter storm struck Nova Scotia on March 16th and dropped as much as 22 cm of snow. Ice caused problems for the CN ferries to Newfoundland as a normal 6 hour trip stretched to 24 hours.

In contrast, British Columbia enjoyed a mild, sunny, dry, spring-like week. People in Vancouver were beginning to complain about cutting the grass.

Twenty-seven crewmen were rescued from a Panamanian freighter in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The ship was listing in heavy ice and blizzard conditions with wind gusts exceeding 100 km/h.

Temperatures varied from 15° at Lytton, British Columbia to -49.5° at Ogilvie, Yukon. Sable Island, Nova Scotia reported the highest weekly precipitation total, 24.2 mm.

NOTE: The data shown in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian and 115 northern United States Synoptic stations.

YUKON

This week began with very cold weather. Ogilvie reported a minimum temperature of -49.5° on March 17. Warming occurred rapidly and by mid-week maximum temperatures were above freezing in all areas. The mercury reached 5° to 10° in the southern Yukon.

Little or no precipitation was reported and although snow melt has not been appreciable the snow pack is settling.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The weather moderated considerably in all regions. Temperatures rose from a few degrees below normal last week to as much as 7° above normal in some areas this week.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mild, sunny weather was reported throughout the province. With few exceptions, maximum temperatures rose above freezing on every day of the

week. Lytton measured the highest reading in the country, 15° .

Surprisingly, the majority of stations reported no precipitation at all this week. The highest weekly total was only 9 mm (measured at Prince Rupert).

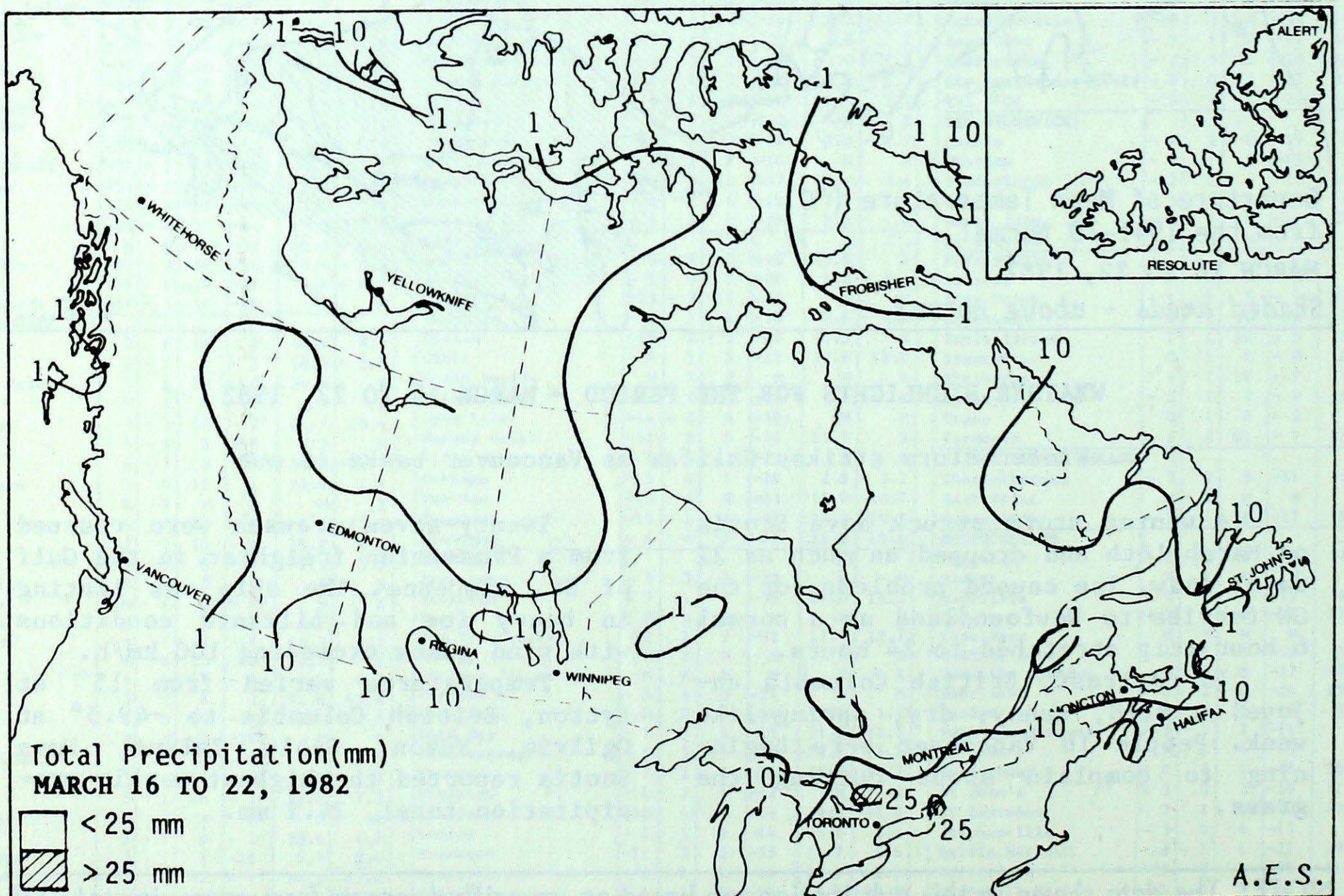
PRAIRIE PROVINCES

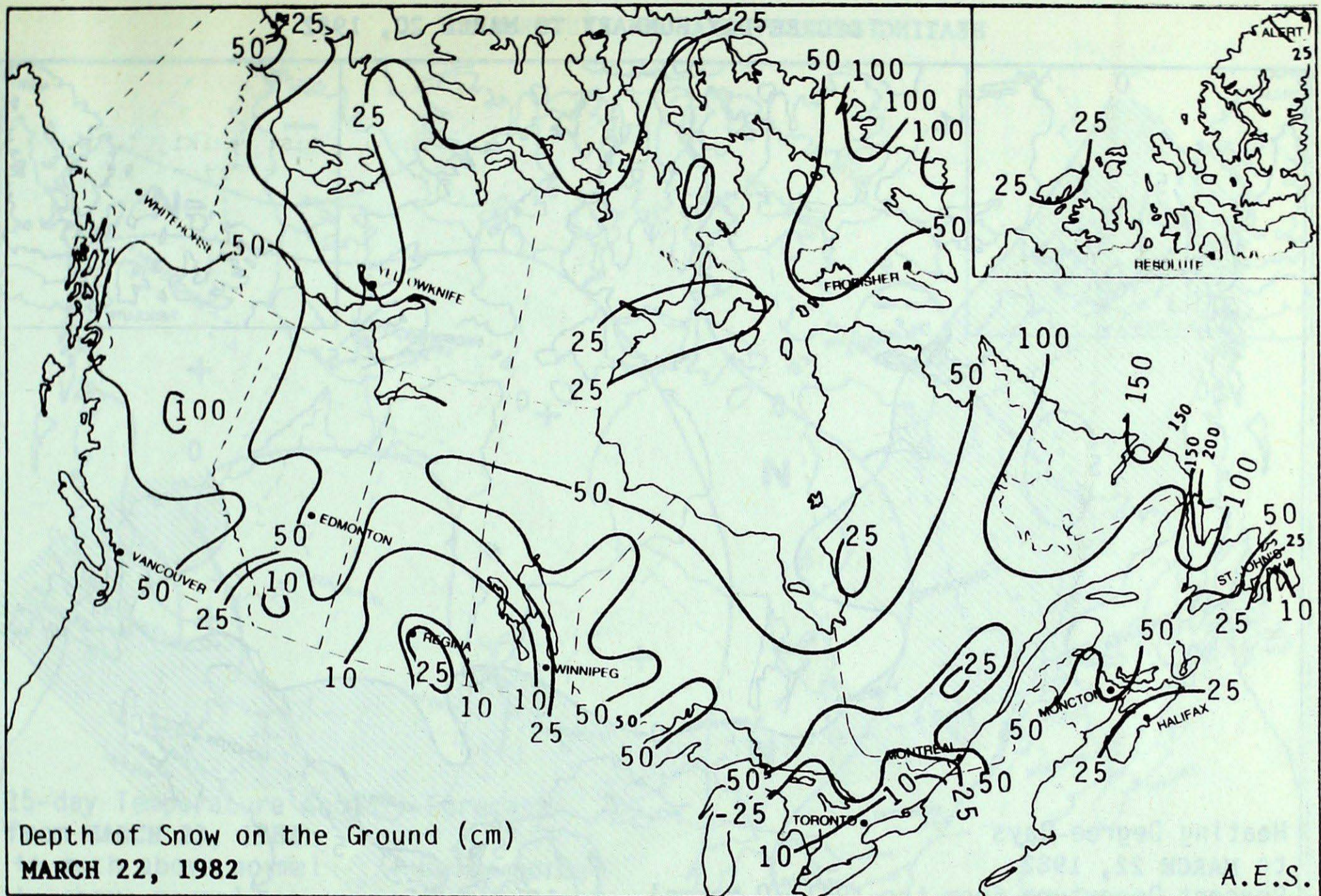
Cold air dominated the Prairies at the beginning of the week, but by the end of the week the spring thaw was well underway. Maximum temperatures on the last day of the week were generally in the range of 4° to 7° . Secondary roads were beginning to break up and potholes appeared.

ONTARIO

Seasonable temperatures with rain in the south and snow in the north accompanied the official arrival of the spring season in Ontario.

In the Muskoka-Wiarton-Peterborough area 5 cm to 10 cm of snow fell on March 21st, however most other locations saw their snow cover continue to slowly diminish. All areas along the





north shore of Lakes Ontario and Erie are generally snow free.

Ski Resort operators, many of whom were courting financial disaster after the last couple of below normal winter snowfalls, report that their 1981-82 season was a very successful one.

QUEBEC

The central and southern areas of the province enjoyed normal to above normal temperatures allowing the Maple Sap to start to flow. Mean temperatures in northern areas were as much as 4° below normal.

The Hull-Montreal-St. Hubert area recorded 10 cm to 20 cm of snowfall on March 21st, but most regions of the province measured less than 10 cm.

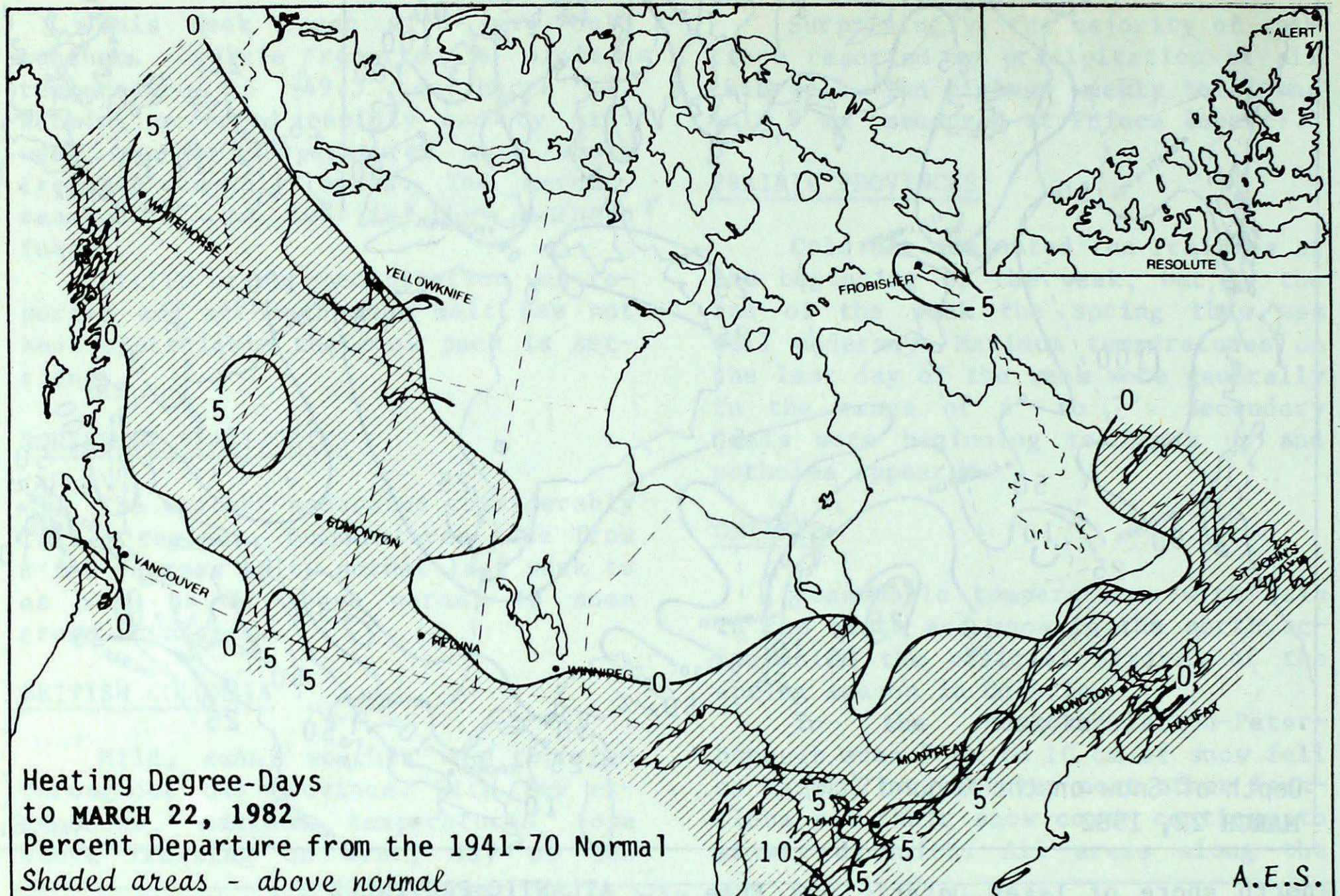
ATLANTIC PROVINCES

A snowstorm struck eastern Nova Scotia on March 16th. Truro measured 22 cm of snowfall and some schools and roads were closed. Search and Rescue rescued 27 crewmen from the Panamanian freighter Dolid in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The ship was listing in heavy ice and blizzard conditions with winds gusting to over 100 km/h.

The CN Ferries to Newfoundland were encountering ice problems. A normal 6 hour trip stretched to 24 hours even with ice breaker support.

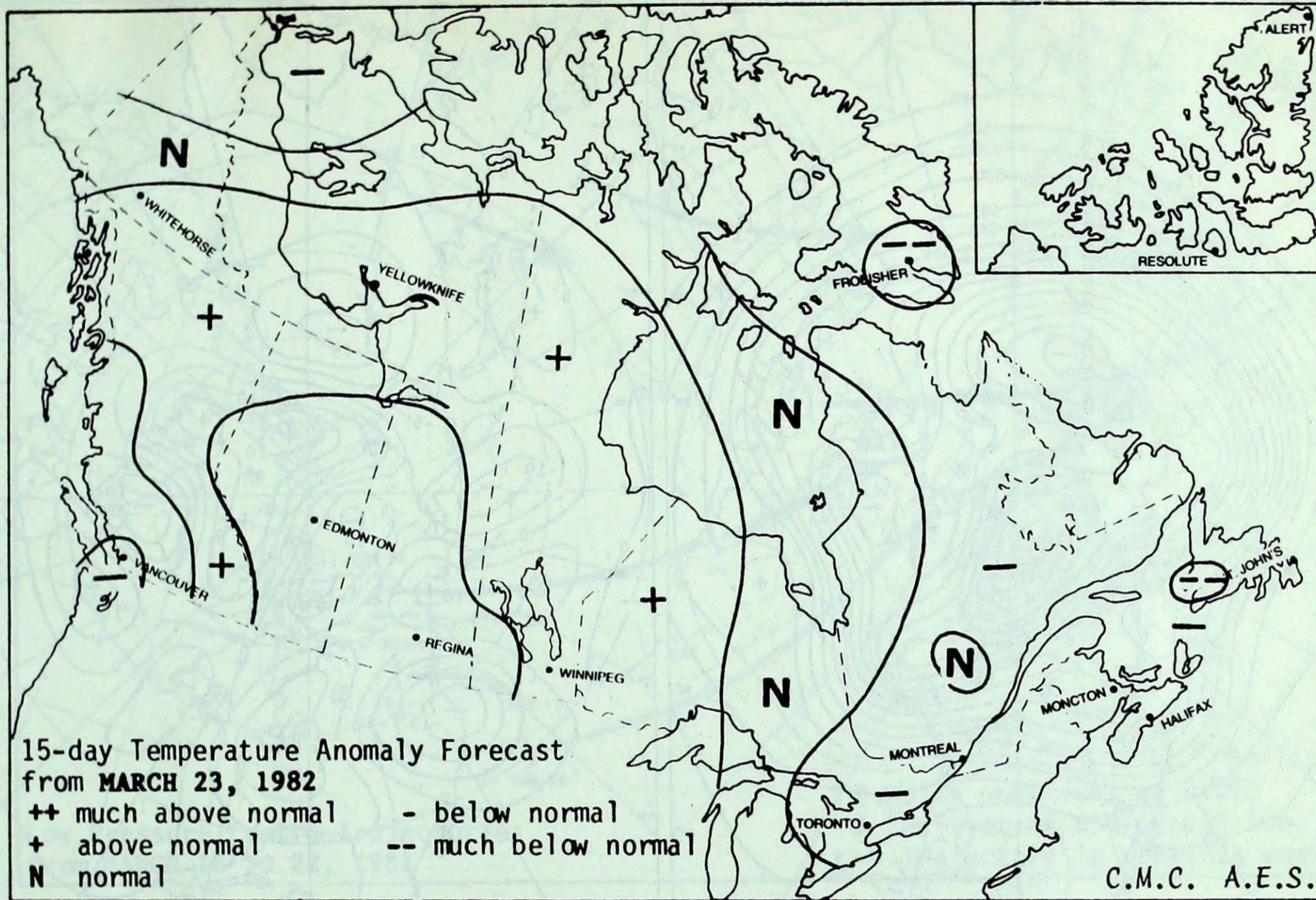
Very cold air covering the province of Newfoundland produced several daily minimum temperature records. The most notable was Cartwright with -25.8° on March 22nd breaking the old record of -23.9° set in 1949.

HEATING DEGREE-DAY SUMMARY TO MARCH 20, 1982

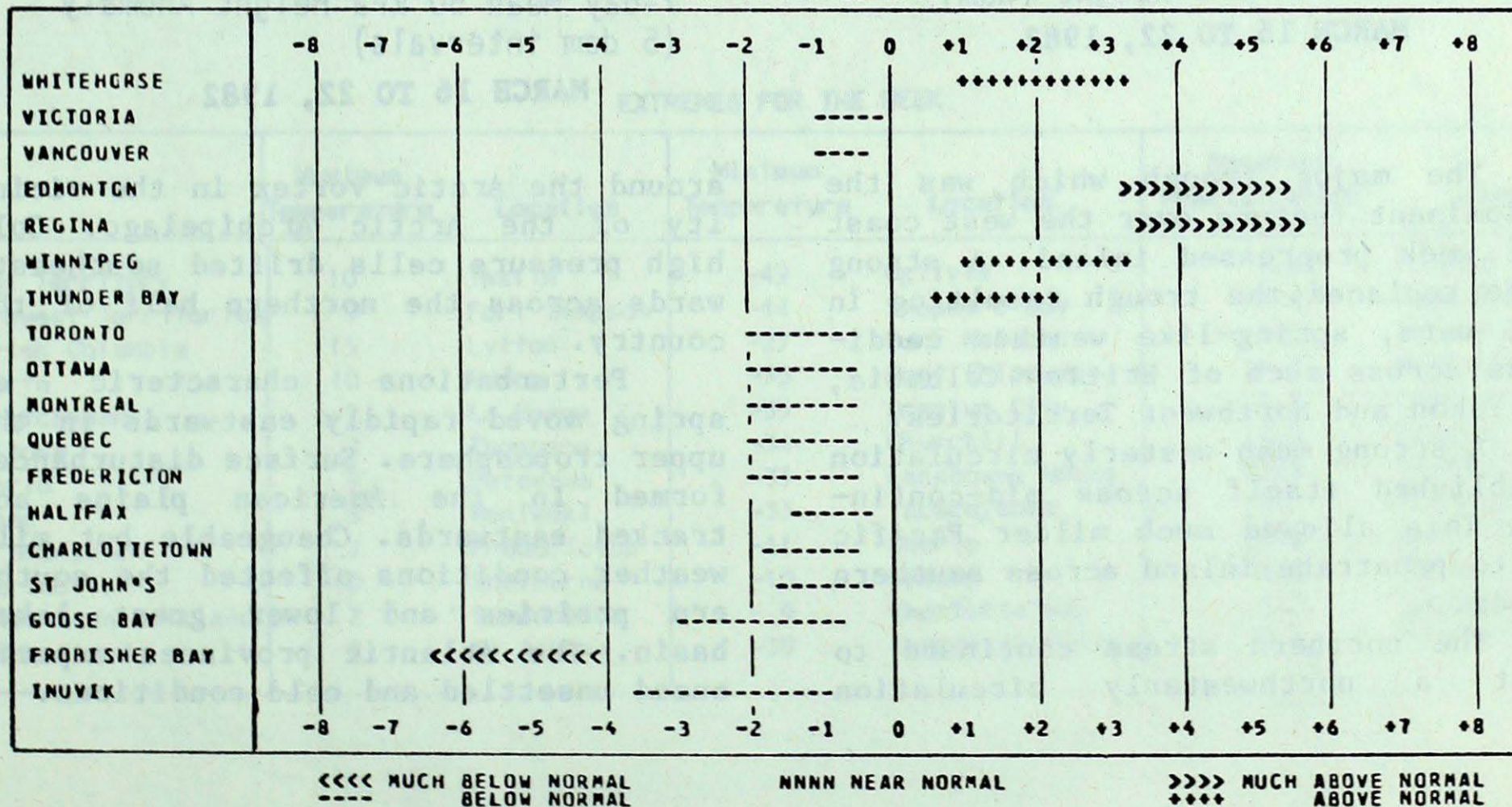


STATION	MONTHLY CUMULATIVE TOTAL	MONTHLY DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL TOTAL	SEASONAL DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL PERCENT OF NORMAL
Resolute	1023.5	21.5	9006.5	-347.5	96
Inuvik	860.5	-18.5	7709.0	-230.0	97
Whitehorse	584.5	44.5	5982.0	413.0	107
Vancouver	262.5	10.5	2314.0	-37.0	98
Edmonton Mun	517.5	14.5	4600.0	-13.0	100
Calgary	502.5	35.5	4447.0	184.0	104
Regina	585.5	15.5	5021.5	120.5	102
Winnipeg	560.0	-6.0	4871.5	-20.5	100
Thunder Bay	526.5	10.5	4750.5	138.5	103
Windsor	373.5	14.5	3252.5	288.5	110
Toronto	431.5	25.5	3613.5	295.5	109
Ottawa	454.5	-0.5	4017.5	139.5	104
Montreal	447.5	15.5	3962.5	270.5	107
Quebec	483.0	10.0	4302.0	190.0	105
Saint John, N.B.	427.0	-11.0	3790.5	89.5	102
Halifax	390.0	-2.0	3178.5	75.5	102
Charlottetown	449.0	8.0	3567.5	48.5	101
St. John's, Nfld.	448.5	31.5	3507.0	43.0	101

TEMPERATURE ANOMALY FORECAST



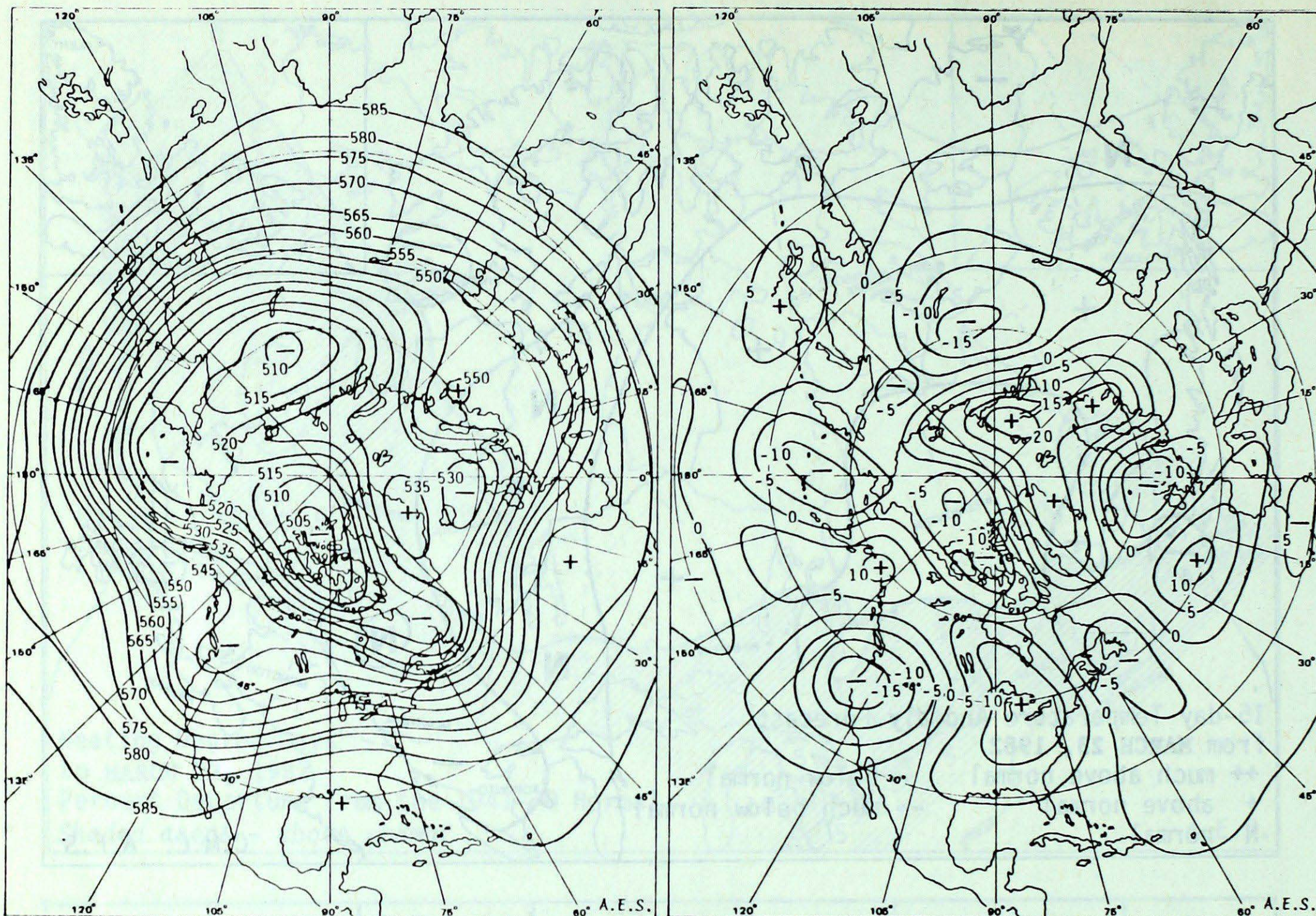
TEMPERATURE ANOMALY FORECAST FOR MAR 23 1982 TO APR 6 1982



<<<< MUCH BELOW NORMAL NNNN NEAR NORMAL >>>> MUCH ABOVE NORMAL

----- BELOW NORMAL +---- ABOVE NORMAL

ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



7-day Mean 50 kPa Height (dam)
MARCH 16 TO 22, 1982

7-day Mean 50 kPa Height Anomaly
(5 dam intervals)
MARCH 16 TO 22, 1982

The major trough which was the predominant feature over the west coast last week progressed inland. A strong ridge replaced the trough resulting in dry, warm, spring-like weather conditions across much of British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

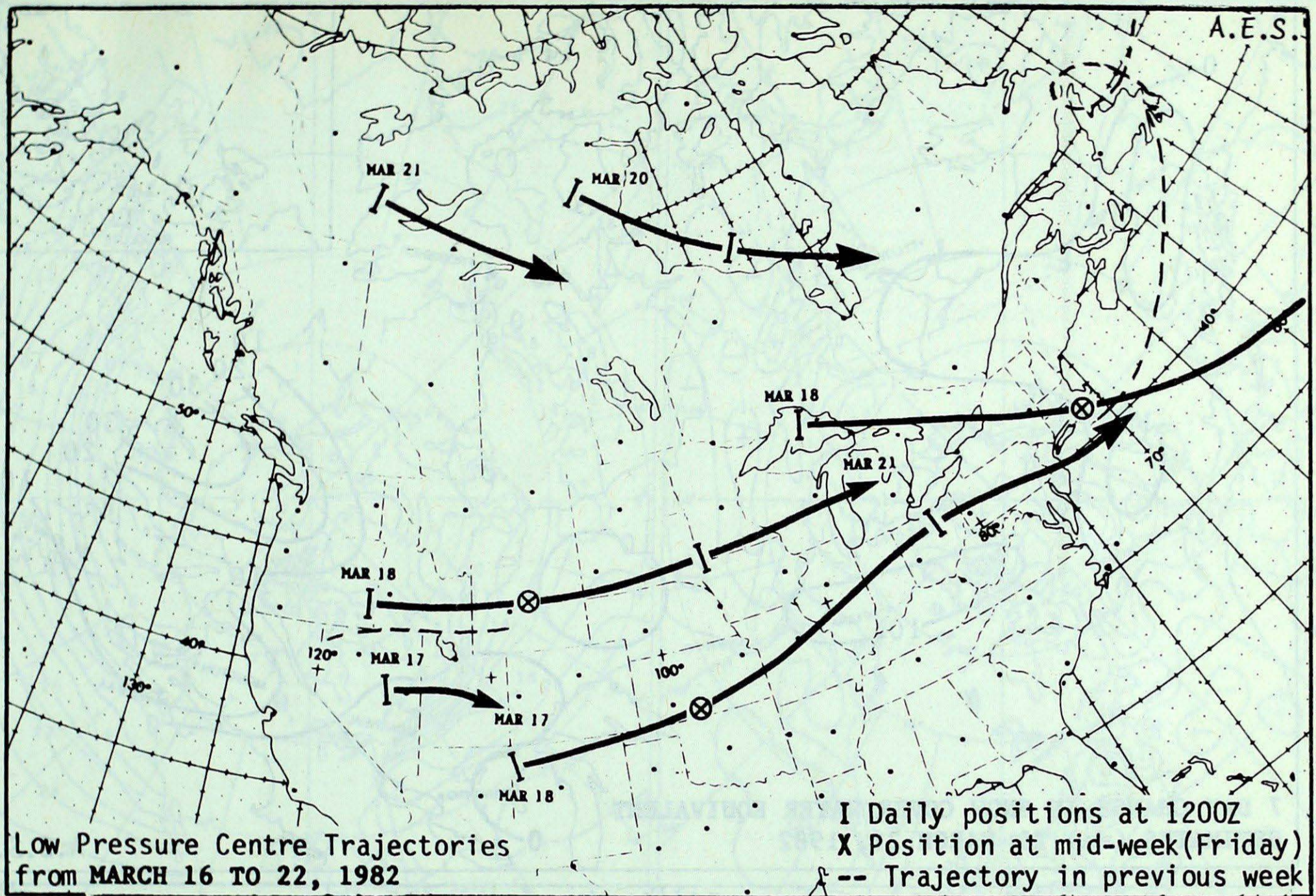
A strong mean westerly circulation established itself across mid-continent. This allowed much milder Pacific air to penetrate inland across southern Canada.

The northern stream continued to sport a northwesterly circulation

around the Arctic vortex in the vicinity of the Arctic Archipelago. Cold high pressure cells drifted southeastwards across the northern half of the country.

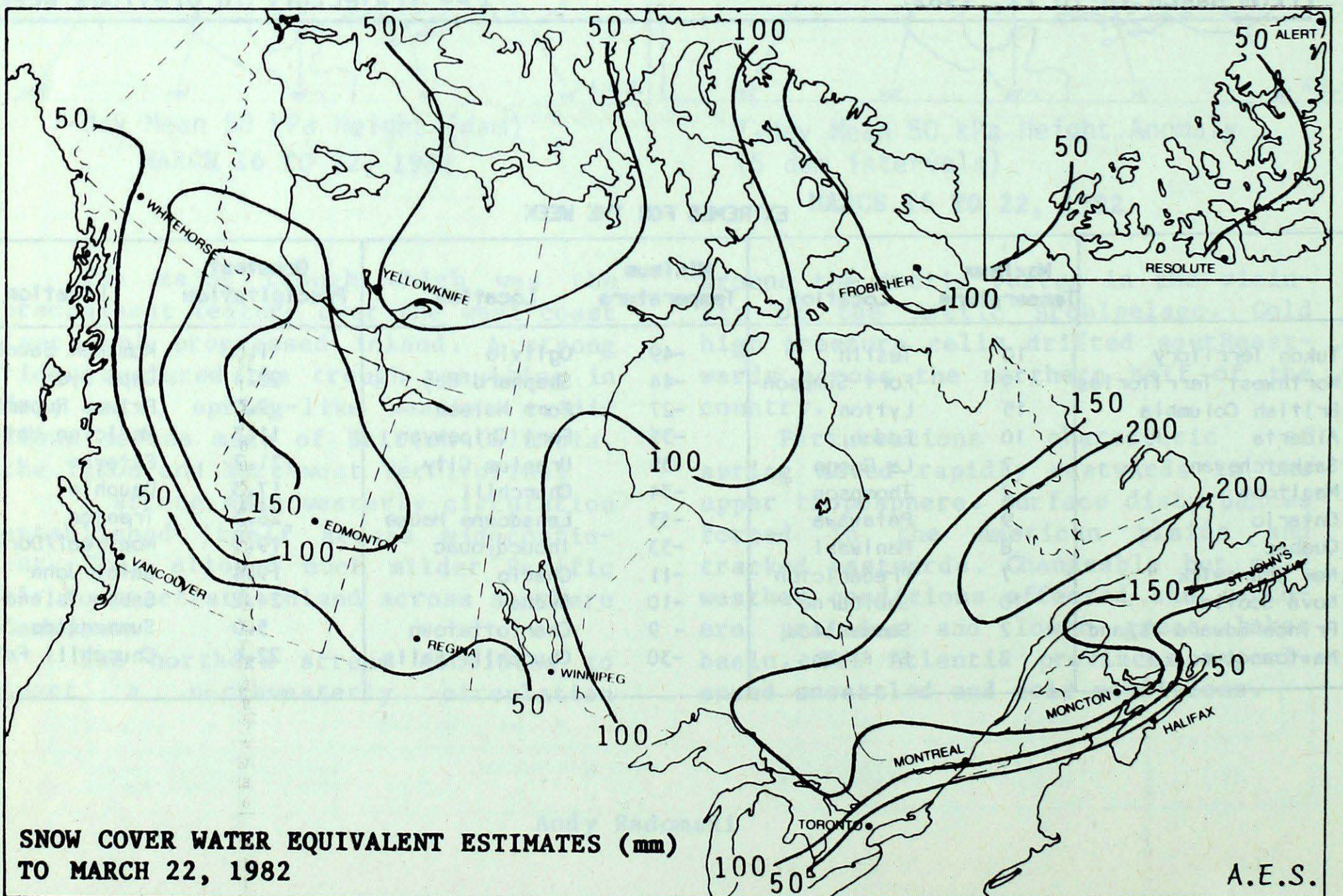
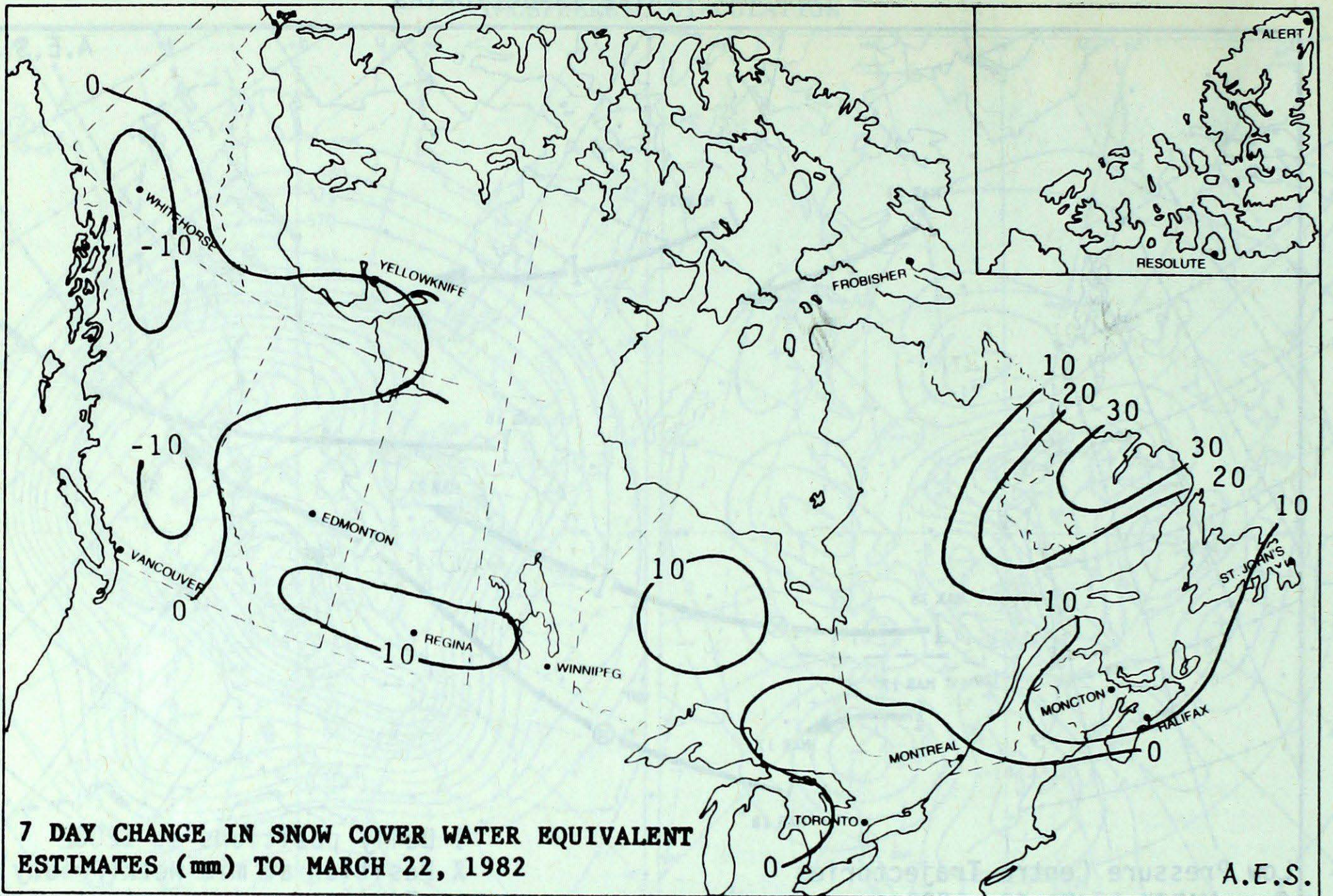
Perturbations characteristic of spring moved rapidly eastwards in the upper troposphere. Surface disturbances formed in the American plains and tracked eastwards. Changeable but mild weather conditions affected the southern prairies and lower great lakes basin. The Atlantic provinces experienced unsettled and cold conditions.

LOW PRESSURE CENTRE TRAJECTORIES

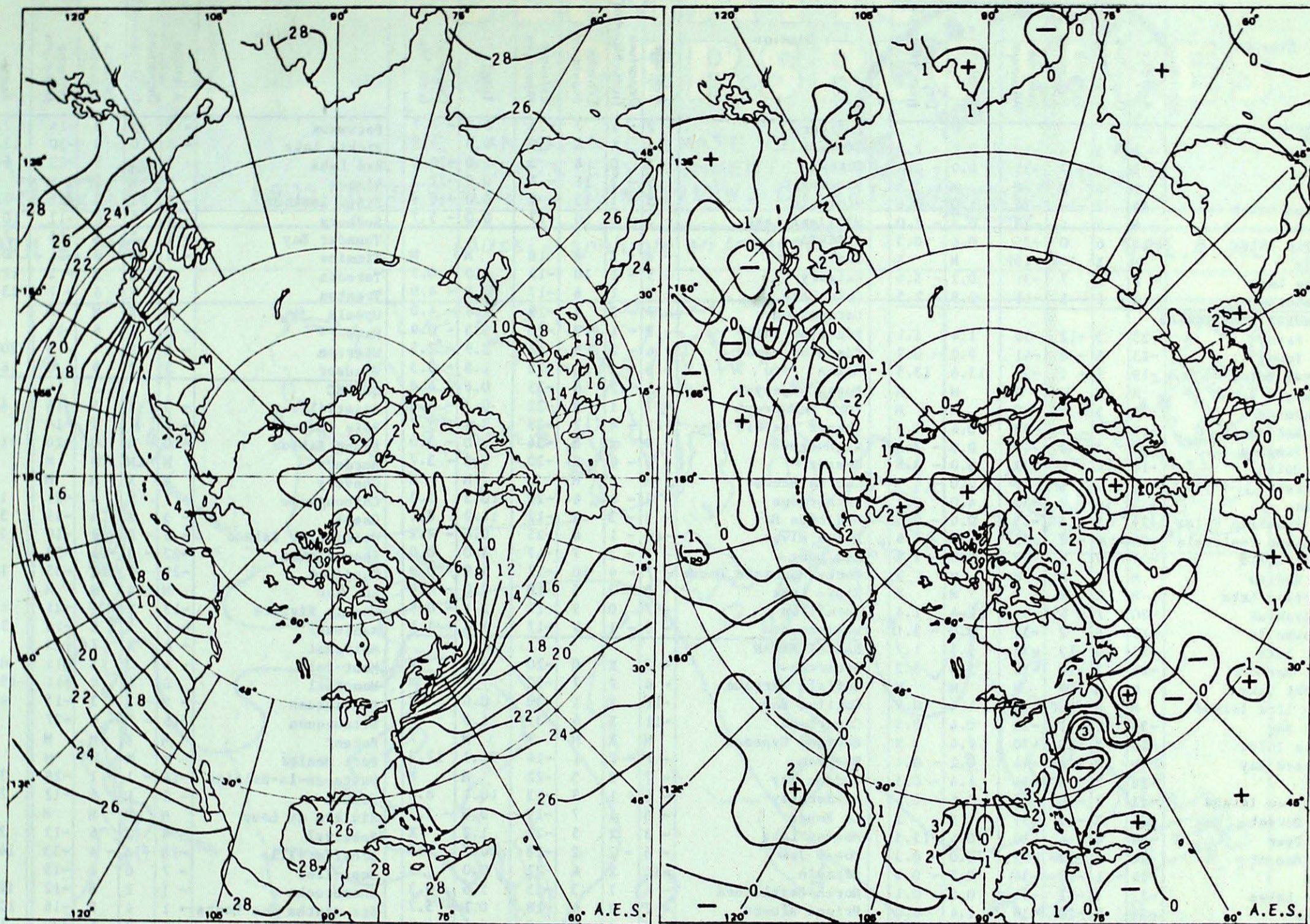


EXTREMES FOR THE WEEK

	Maximum Temperature	Location	Minimum Temperature	Location	Greatest Precipitation	Location
Yukon Territory	10	Teslin	-49	Ogilvie	1.0	Komakuk Beach
Northwest Territories	9	Fort Simpson	-44	Shepherd Bay	20.4	Cape Dyer
British Columbia	15	Lytton	-27	Fort Nelson	9.0	Prince Rupert
Alberta	10	Edson	-35	Fort Chipewyan	11.3	Medicine Hat
Saskatchewan	7	La Ronge	-35	Uranium City	21.7	Estevan
Manitoba	7	Thompson	-34	Churchill	17.3	Dauphin
Ontario	9	Petawawa	-33	Lansdowne House	23.3	Trenton
Quebec	8	Maniwaki	-33	Inoucdjouac	19.1	Montreal/Dorval
New Brunswick	7	Fredericton	-11	Charlo	19.4	Saint John
Nova Scotia	10	Shelburne	-10	Sydney	24.2	Sable Island
Prince Edward Island	2	Summerside	-9	Charlottetown	5.0	Summerside
Newfoundland	2	St Albans	-30	Churchill Falls	22.6	Churchill Falls



SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE



Mean Sea Surface Temperature
MID FEBRUARY TO MID MARCH 1982

Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly
MID FEBRUARY TO MID MARCH 1982

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES

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