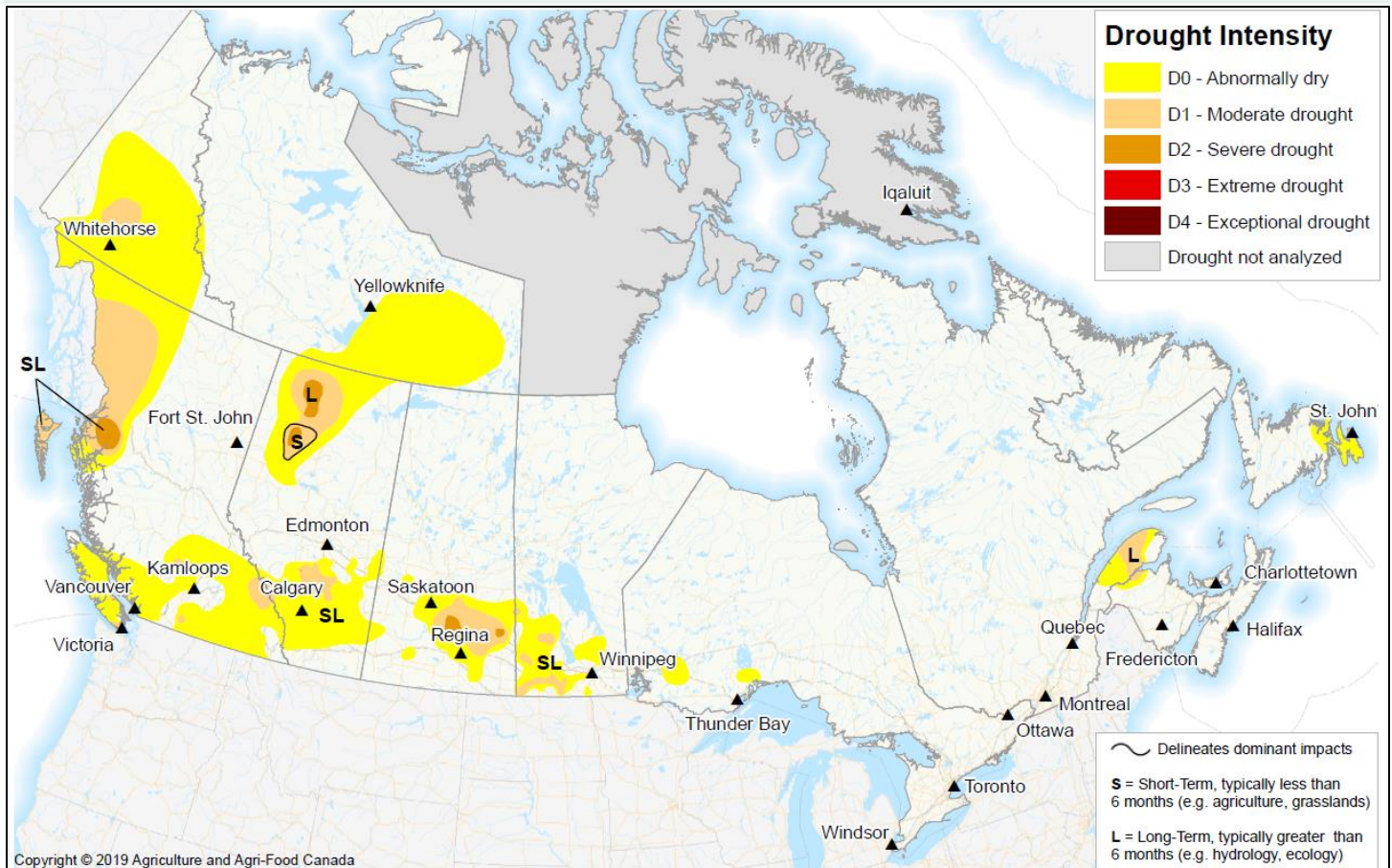


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28th, 2019



Significant precipitation across much of the country led to improved drought conditions throughout February. The Prairie Region in particular benefitted from substantial precipitation in the hardest-hit regions of the 2018 drought, leading to reduced concern of spring drought. Coastal areas in the Pacific and Atlantic Regions experienced a dry month, resulting in heightened drought risk in these regions. Streamflow continues to be a major concern for many areas in the Pacific region. Exceptionally high precipitation in Central Canada improved conditions in the Gaspé region of Quebec. Dry conditions persisted in Northern Canada due to below average precipitation levels. Overall, despite recent improvement, long-term drought conditions lingered in western Canada.



Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions in coastal British Columbia deteriorated due to below average precipitation throughout February. Exceptionally poor streamflow led to the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in the southwestern region of the province. Moderate Drought (D1) persisted along the southern coast due to enduring long-term precipitation deficits and exceptionally low streamflow on Vancouver Island. The southern interior continued to experience below normal precipitation; thus, D1 conditions persisted. Drought conditions in the northwestern half of the province remained relatively unchanged, as long-term precipitation deficits and inadequate short-term snowfall resulted in enduring drought. The area around Terrace continued to experience a D2 pocket due to below average precipitation since the end of the growing season. Improved streamflow in the northeast resulted in the alleviation of all dryness concerns.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Conditions across the Prairie Region improved due to above average precipitation in most areas. Drought persisted in northwestern and southwestern Alberta, where precipitation was below normal over the past three months. Severe Drought (D2) pockets remained near High Level despite recent improvement due to long-term precipitation deficits in the area. The remainder of the southern Prairies received substantial precipitation which led to improvement of long-term drought pockets, especially in southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. Soil moisture conditions saw dramatic improvement across the southeast of Alberta, prompting the removal of all drought pockets. A large Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket remained as a reflection of longer-term conditions. Record-high precipitation in southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba throughout February resulted in the reduction of a D2 area in southern Saskatchewan to a couple of small pockets that remained dry. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions along the southern border of Manitoba also decreased in size due to recent precipitation. Despite recent improvements, moisture deficits persisted in parts of the Prairie Region, and continued precipitation is required to replenish soil moisture in preparation for the spring.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Conditions in Central Canada improved due to well above average precipitation. Excessive moisture existed in eastern Ontario during February resulting in the elimination of the Abnormally Dry (D0) area from the previous month's assessment. While Northern Ontario also received adequate precipitation, the D0 persisted in the regions with the greatest deficits through the winter. Conditions in the Gaspé region of Quebec has improved to a Moderate Drought (D1) because short-term improvements were sufficient enough to relieve long-term precipitation deficits.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Atlantic Canada benefitted from a slightly dry month that provided relief to areas that were experiencing excess moisture stress. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions arose in Eastern Newfoundland due to a more significant precipitation deficit throughout February. D0 conditions remained in northern New Brunswick, where dry conditions have persisted since the summer.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Northern Canada received variable amounts of precipitation throughout February. By the end of the month, streamflow across the region was excellent, except for an area east of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories where poor streamflow and below normal precipitation resulted in the development of an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket. Satellite-derived data indicated that the southern half of Yukon Territory had received less than seventy-five percent of its average precipitation over the past ninety days; thus, a large D0 pocket persisted and a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket developed.