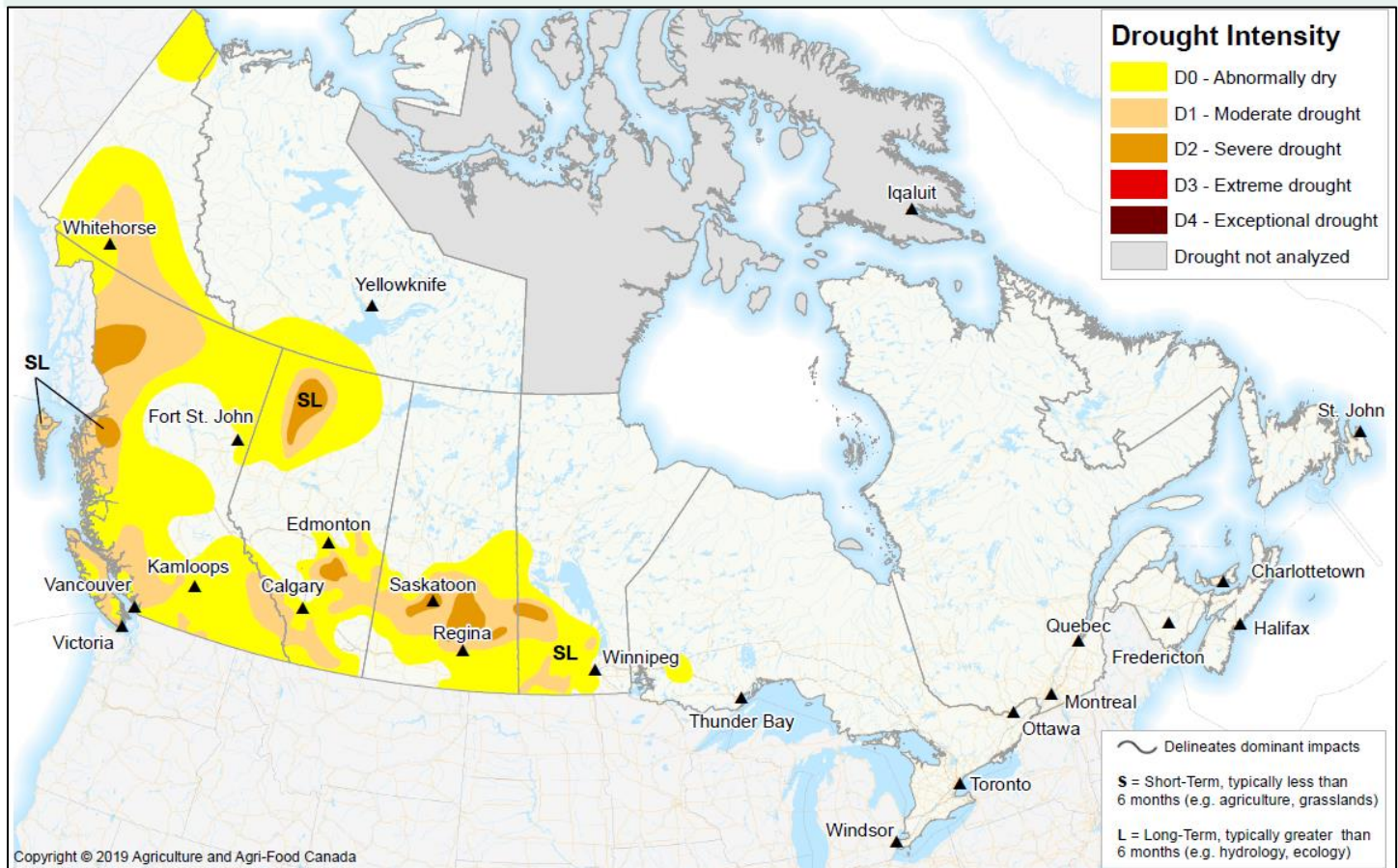


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2019



Drought conditions remained relatively unchanged throughout April, as dry conditions prevailed in the west while eastern Canada received substantial moisture. Much of western Canada continued to experience near normal temperatures and below average precipitation. Drought persisted in the areas of British Columbia that have experienced the greatest precipitation deficits since January despite short-term improvements. Large portions of the Prairie Region continued to experience long-term and short-term precipitation deficits, leading to continued deterioration of soil moisture and increased concern for feed and surface water supplies this growing season. Snowfall in the southern portions of the Prairies during the last week of April brought much-needed moisture to the region, however central regions of Alberta and Saskatchewan did not receive any moisture and remained dry. Drought was not a concern in Central and Atlantic Canada this month, as abundant precipitation and snow melt led to increased flood risk. Abnormally Dry conditions persisted in the Yukon and southern portions of



the Northwest Territories due to below average long-term and short-term precipitation. The most significant drought concerns persisted in northwestern British Columbia, northwestern Alberta, and south-central Saskatchewan.

## **Pacific Region (BC)**

Conditions in British Columbia remained relatively unchanged due to average precipitation throughout April being insufficient to improve longer-term deficits. At the end of the month, drought conditions existed in the southern interior, northwest, and coastal regions. Much of the province continued to experience Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate Drought (D1) conditions, except parts of the east central which has continued to receive adequate precipitation. Despite average to above average precipitation along the coastal region throughout April, D1 persisted due to enduring long-term precipitation deficits. 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 Severe Drought (D2) as below average precipitation has persisted since the end of the 2018 growing season. D2 developed around Dease Lake, where precipitation accumulation since March has been below 20% of normal. Long-term drought indices suggested dryness south of Kelowna; thus, the D1 pocket persisted. Given the time of year, drought impacts in British Columbia have been minimal. Early snow melt coupled with El Nino conditions have heightened concerns for increased streamflow deficits in the summer.

## **Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)**

Conditions across the Prairie Region continued to deteriorate due to below average precipitation throughout April. Poor soil moisture in the southern Prairies led to the expansion of several Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) Drought pockets. Feed supply and surface water supply concerns continued to be a significant concern as drought over the past two years has significantly reduced availability. Pastures have been very slow to recover this spring and producers continue to provide supplemental feed if they have access. A widespread snowfall in the southern portion of the region at the end of the month helped to alleviate dryness across southern Alberta and parts of southern Saskatchewan. Drought conditions existed in Peace Country, southern and eastern Alberta, south-central Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. A large Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket persisted across the southern Prairies and northern Alberta. Below 40% of normal precipitation over the past 90 days led to a persisting D2 pocket south of High Level in Alberta. Continued dry spring conditions lead to worsening conditions east of Red Deer and resulted in a D2 classification. This region has seen less than 40% of its normal March and April precipitation. The D1 pockets in eastern and southern Alberta were expanded due to poor soil moisture and significant precipitation deficits. In Saskatchewan, D2 pockets persisted in the south-central region. This area has experienced a precipitation deficit greater than 40% below normal this year. Conditions along the southern-most areas of the province improved due to moisture from the snowfall event at the end of April. D0 conditions persisted near

Weyburn however, as impacts such as low surface water supplies persisted from the last growing season. Below average precipitation continued to result in D0 and D1 conditions in southern Manitoba. Regions that had experienced flooding of the Red River basin during April benefitted from warm and dry conditions. Producer surveys show that pasture conditions and surface water supply across much of the Prairie region has been impacted due to persisting drought conditions. Favorable summer conditions are required to recover from long-term impacts.

## **Central Region (ON, QC)**

Central Canada continued to receive above normal precipitation throughout April leading to excess soil moisture and flooding. Much of the region received over 150% of average precipitation throughout the month of April. Coupled with cool temperature, excessive moisture levels contributed to the delay of seeding across the region. Warm and dry weather is needed to get the 2019 season moving. A small Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket persisted in Northwest Ontario near Dryden, where April precipitation was inadequate to relieve long-term moisture deficits.

## **Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)**

Atlantic Canada experienced a relatively wet month and soil moisture conditions improved. All previously dry regions recovered, and field operations were stalled due to excess moisture. At the end of the month, streamflow across the region was reported as above average.

## **Northern Region (YT, NT)**

Conditions in Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged throughout the month. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions existed in the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Moderate precipitation deficits occurred in the majority of Yukon Territory and southern Northwest Territories throughout April. Precipitation model data indicated that the area surrounding Carmacks had precipitation levels that were far below average, and streamflow was poor; thus, a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket persisted. At the end of the month, streamflow across the region was reported as above average.