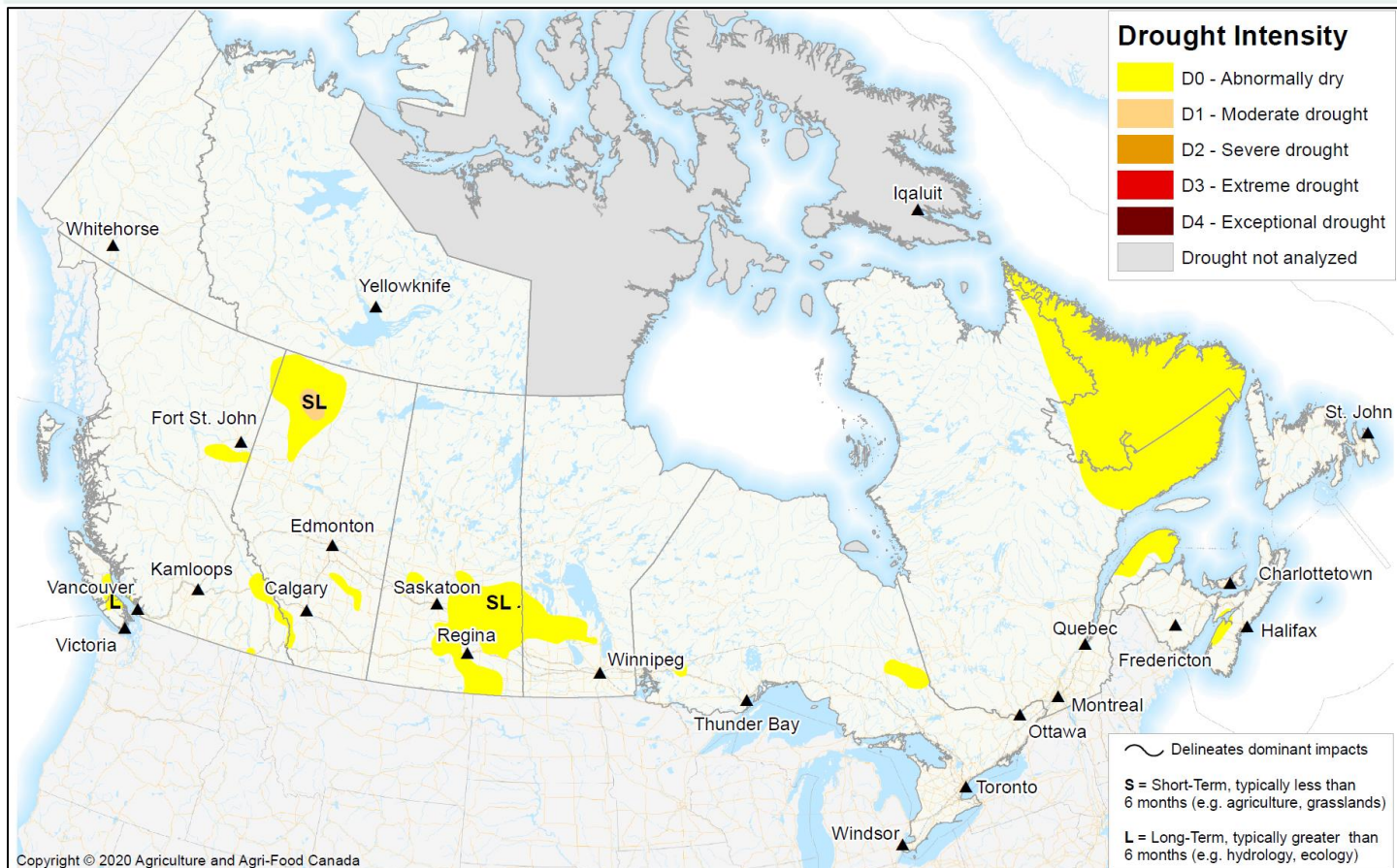


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2020



At the end of March, drought continues to be very limited in severity and extent, representing less than 1% of Canada's land area. Despite minimal drought across the country, conditions classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) have continued to expand as spring melt progresses across Canada. Despite a dry month in the southern portions of the province, drought in British Columbia continued to be a minimal concern. Some pockets of dryness from previous months intensified on Vancouver Island. Dryness expanded in the Prairies due to below normal precipitation over the past few months. Spring melt has begun and the snow has melted rather quickly, resulting in increased concern for late spring soil moisture. Substantial fall precipitation contributed to good soil moisture at freeze-up will carry this region for the early spring however spring rains will be required to maintain good soil moisture conditions. Central and Atlantic Canada have seen normal to above normal precipitation and currently have good soil moisture



in most regions. Small dry pockets do exist in southern Ontario and western Quebec. Low precipitation over the last few months has led to an expansion of the Abnormally Dry (D0) region of Labrador. The Northern territories of Canada continue to experience above normal precipitation, leading to excellent streamflow and no drought concerns.

Pacific Region (BC)

Although British Columbia continued to have no areas of drought throughout March, there was some expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Above normal snow accumulation along the northwest coast led to alleviation of dryness concerns. A small D0 developed in the northeast where precipitation accumulation over the past 90 days has been below normal. In southern British Columbia, below normal precipitation throughout March coupled with long-term precipitation deficits led to the expansion of D0 conditions on Vancouver Island in southwestern British Columbia across Courtenay and Campbell River. D0 persisted in parts of the southeast that received at least 55mm below normal precipitation over the last 3 months.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Continued precipitation deficits and quick snow melt throughout March led to deteriorating conditions across the Prairies. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded in northwestern Alberta toward due to below normal precipitation over the last 6 months, raising concern for soil moisture deficits. Moderate Drought (D1) persisted around High Level, where these deficits have been the most significant and long-term. The southern half of the prairies continued to experience dry conditions. In southern Alberta, D0 developed in areas where winter precipitation was below 85 percent of normal. D0 conditions expanded in southern and central Saskatchewan and central Manitoba where fall moisture was inadequate to mitigate a dry winter. Below 25mm of precipitation over the last three months led to D0 expanding across much of southern Saskatchewan. The Yorkton region continues to experience short- and long-term deficits. Excessive fall precipitation and saturated soils at freeze up prevented extensive development of drought in the region, but spring precipitation will be critical for the upcoming growing season.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Dry conditions in the northern Central Region improved during March. Precipitation at or near 115 per cent of normal led to the improvement of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in northeastern Ontario and northern Quebec. Small D0 pockets persisted in northwestern Ontario and northeastern Quebec, where satellite-derived data indicated precipitation deficits

over the last 90 days. D0 conditions continue to affect the Gaspé region in eastern Quebec, where the precipitation deficit has been greater than 55mm over the last 6 months.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Much of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia received below normal precipitation throughout March. A small Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket developed in southern Nova Scotia, as this region only received 30 mm of precipitation over the last 30 days. D0 conditions continue to affect most of Labrador due to persisting precipitation deficits since January.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Satellite-derived data indicated that northern Yukon and Northwest Territories received above average precipitation throughout March. Near normal precipitation and excellent streamflow continue to keep dry conditions at a minimum. There are no drought concerns in this region currently.