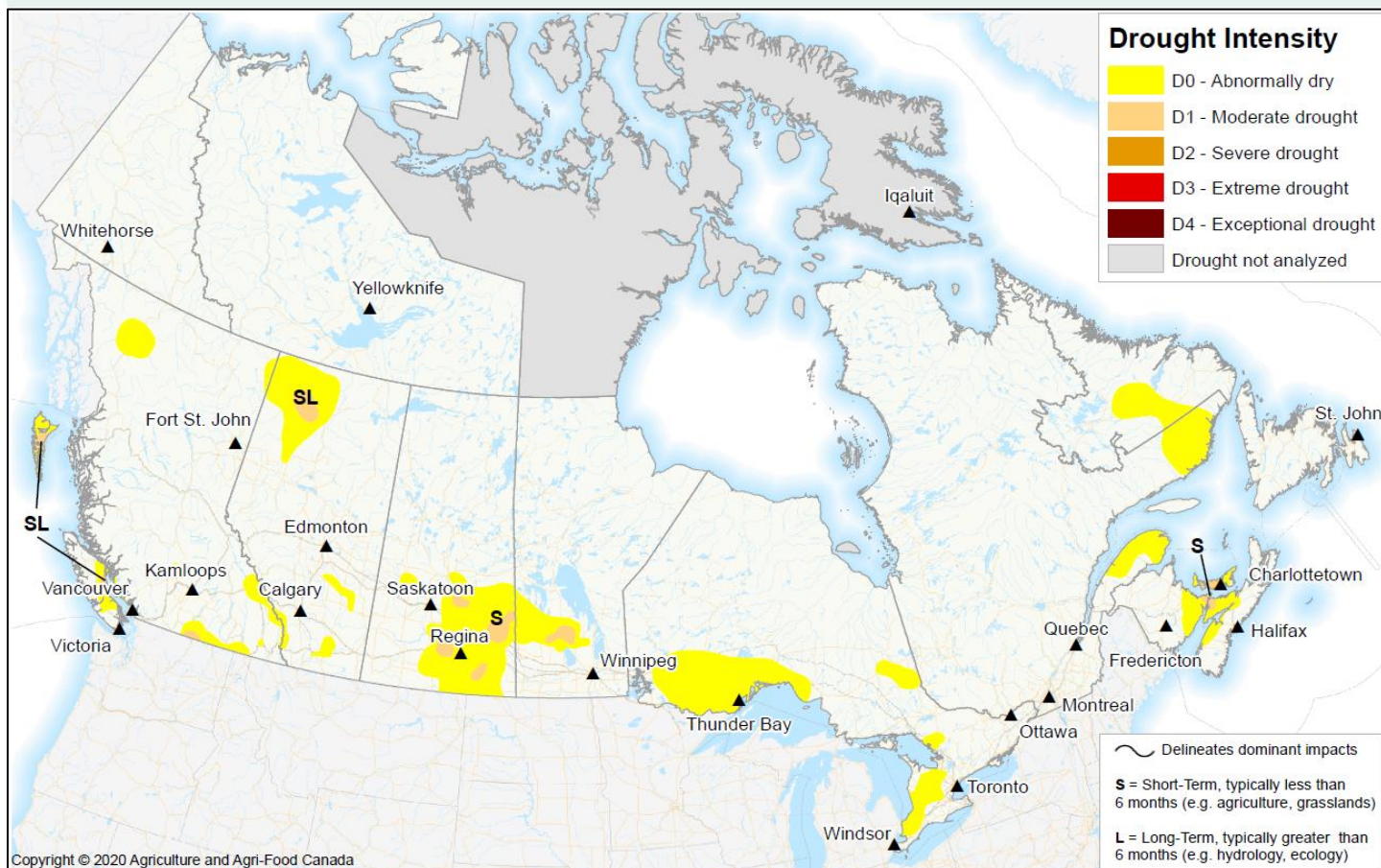


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2020



Drought conditions deteriorated throughout April as winter turned to spring, particularly in western Canada; however, only 3% of national land area within the agricultural extent is under drought. Much of the country experienced cooler than normal temperatures throughout the month, especially British Columbia, central Alberta, and Saskatchewan where temperatures were more than 4 degrees colder than normal. Abnormally dry conditions expanded in the southern Prairies and started to develop in eastern Canada. Several Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets persisted in British Columbia, but the concern for drought remains low. The Prairie Region continued to experience short-term precipitation deficits which led to the expansion of dry pockets and development of Moderate Drought (D1) in southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Prolonged precipitation deficits throughout the winter have had minimal impacts due to adequate fall precipitation that replenished soil moisture at freeze-up. Below normal



precipitation led to the expansion of dry pockets in Ontario. In Atlantic Canada, poor streamflow and significant precipitation deficits over the last 2 months led to the expansion of D0 conditions across Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Conditions in Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged due to near normal precipitation and excellent streamflow over the last 3 months.

Pacific Region (BC)

Dry conditions expanded in British Columbia as almost all regions of the province received below normal precipitation over the past month. Prince George experienced its driest April on record, but conditions remained normal due to above average precipitation in March. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted in northwestern BC, as the area surrounding Dease Lake received less than 60 percent of normal precipitation over the last six months. Poor streamflow and below normal precipitation over the long- and short-term led to the development of a D0 and Moderate Drought (D1) pocket on Haida Gwaii.

In the southern half of the province, D0 conditions persisted on Vancouver Island and along the Sunshine Coast where less than 60 percent of normal precipitation was received over the last 90 days. Campbell River experienced its second driest April in 61 years. D0 developed near Penticton, as the area received less than 60 percent of normal precipitation over the past two months. A small pocket of D1 formed near Oliver after receiving less than 40 mm of precipitation over the past 2 months. Although precipitation was low around the province, streamflow values remained high and the concern for drought is minimal.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

A dry start to spring and continued snow melt during April led to worsening conditions across the Prairie Region. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions continue to persist in northwestern Alberta, resulting in concern for soil moisture due to below normal precipitation since July. Moderate Drought (D1) persisted near High Level due to short- and long-term precipitation deficits. D0 expanded throughout southern Saskatchewan and central Manitoba as precipitation was below 60 percent of normal over the last 6 months. Moderate Drought (D1) pockets also developed in areas where less than 20 mm of precipitation was received over the last 90 days. Drought indices showed that the area surrounding Regina in Saskatchewan and Ashern in Manitoba have been particularly dry over the last three months. Despite considerable precipitation deficits throughout winter, significant fall precipitation contributed to good soil moisture at freeze-up and is expected to prevent extensive development of drought, particularly near

Winnipeg. However, adequate precipitation is still required throughout the region for the growing season.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Although no drought developed in Central Canada, dry conditions in Ontario and eastern Quebec led to several Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets. Below normal precipitation in northern Ontario led to the expansion of D0 around Dryden and Thunder Bay. In southern Ontario, less than 85 percent of normal precipitation over the last 3 months and poor streamflow at the end of April led to the formation of D0 conditions near Sarnia. Although much of Quebec received near or above 115 percent of normal precipitation, D0 conditions continue to affect the Gaspé region in eastern Quebec where precipitation has been below 150 mm over the past 3 months.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Throughout April, well below normal precipitation was seen across New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted and expanded into southern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as precipitation was near or below 60 percent of normal over the last 30 days. D0 conditions persisted in Labrador, where less than 60 percent of normal precipitation was received in the last 90 days.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Conditions in Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged throughout April. Satellite-derived data indicates that precipitation has been near or above normal for the last 90 days. The southern half of the Northwest Territories experienced unusually cold temperatures throughout the month. Drought concerns are minimal for Northern Canada due to the continuation of excellent streamflow.