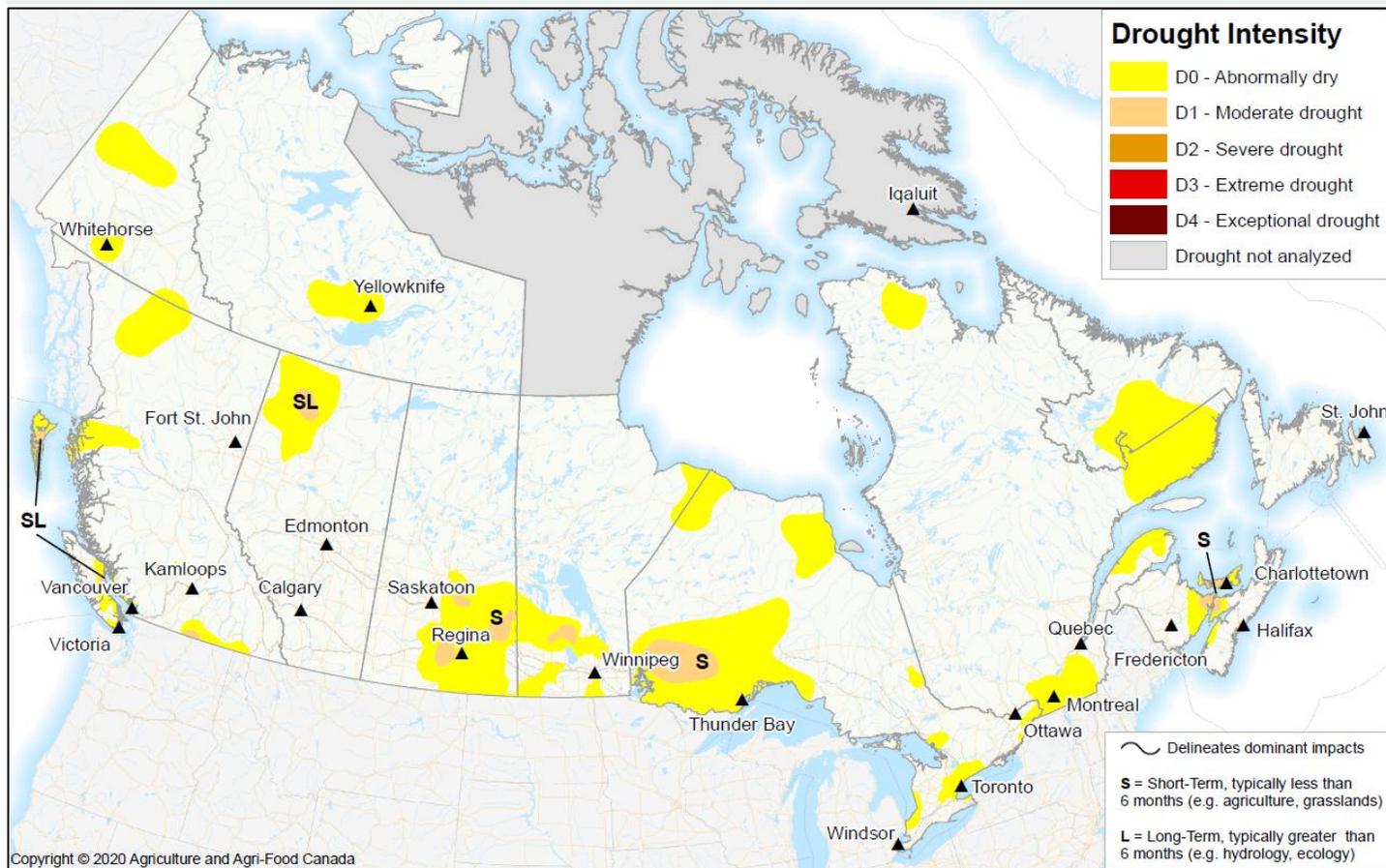


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2020



At the end of May, Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions continued to expand throughout most provinces as warm, dry and windy weather continued to deplete spring soil moisture. The majority of Canada experienced near normal temperatures except for British Columbia, where temperatures were up to or more than 5 degrees warmer than normal. Fourteen per cent of the country was classified as either abnormally dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this includes nearly 28 per cent of the agricultural landscape.

Well above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation throughout much of British Columbia increased the extent of abnormally dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. The majority of the concerns were on Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland region. In the Canadian Prairies, fall moisture continues to provide suitable soil moisture and water



supplies despite well below normal winter and spring precipitation. Drought and dry conditions continued to grow throughout Saskatchewan and Manitoba as a result of short-term precipitation deficits and above normal evaporation rates due to greater than normal winds. Mixed conditions continued in Ontario and Quebec, however well above normal temperatures late in May paired with well below normal monthly precipitation resulted in large abnormally dry (D0) regions to either emerge or expand in northwestern Ontario, eastern Ontario and southern Quebec. Abnormally dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions remained in Prince Edward Island and parts of adjacent provinces. Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged with a few small pockets of abnormally dry (D0) conditions appearing due to short-term precipitation deficits.

Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions continued to deteriorate in British Columbia throughout the month due to short- and long-term precipitation deficits and abnormally high temperatures. Despite this, the concern for drought is minimal due to high streamflow values for May. Eleven per cent of the province was classified as either abnormally dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this includes 13 per cent of the agricultural landscape. Western areas of the province, including much of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, received well below normal precipitation over the past 3 months. Dry conditions persisted in northwestern B.C. near Dease Lake due to below normal precipitation over the last 60 days. Haida Gwaii continues to experience D0 conditions and Moderate Drought (D1) in the short- and long-term as less than 60% of normal precipitation was received in the last 6 months; this also extends towards Prince Rupert, resulting in a return to abnormally dry (D0) conditions in the area. Poor streamflow and significant short- and long-term precipitation deficits are still being felt across Vancouver Island. As a result, D0 and D1 pockets remain along Sunshine Coast. In particular, Campbell River reportedly received only 38.9% of normal average precipitation in the past 3 months. Penticton continues to experience D0 conditions after receiving less than 100 mm in precipitation in the last 3 months, despite reports of excellent streamflow in May. As well, Oliver received less than 75 mm of precipitation in the past 60 days causing the existing D1 pocket to remain.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought conditions generally continued to worsen across the Prairies due to below average precipitation over the past 6 months; much of the region received 80 mm less than their average precipitation causing dry conditions to expand further. Sixteen per cent of the Prairie region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this includes

nearly 30 per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. Northwestern Alberta received less than 25 mm of precipitation during the month, leading to abnormally dry (D0) conditions to remain in place. Short- and long-term precipitation deficits near High Level also caused Moderate Drought (D1) conditions to prevail. Drought is less of a concern in central Alberta due to a mid-month weather system that dumped more than 40 mm of precipitation from Edmonton south towards Lethbridge. This system also impacted an area surrounding North Battleford, where there was an improvement in conditions due to high surface soil moisture levels. However, abnormally dry (D0) conditions still expanded across southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Moderate Drought (D1) pockets further deteriorated in an area west of Regina where less than 40% of average precipitation was received over the last 6 months. Small D0 pockets emerged in southern Manitoba near Brandon and Winkler as well; these areas received less than 80 mm of precipitation in the last 6 months. However, the risk of drought was minimized in localized areas of Manitoba where they received significant precipitation of up to 180 mm.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Central Canada continued to receive below-normal precipitation throughout May leading to an expansion of abnormally dry (D0) conditions. Nineteen per cent of the Central Region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this includes 27 per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. D0 conditions continued to expand throughout northwestern Ontario from Lake Of The Woods towards Thunder Bay as streamflow values were poor and less than 60% of normal precipitation was received in the past 2 months. In southern Ontario, D0 pockets shrunk near Sarnia given the sufficient streamflow levels as well as near-normal precipitation both in short- and long-term indicators. Large pockets of abnormally dry (D0) conditions developed around the Toronto and Montreal areas, which received less than 60 mm over the past 30 days and showed lower than normal streamflow; dry conditions in these areas led to concern for seed germination during this critical agricultural time. Abnormally dry (D0) conditions continue to affect the Gaspé region in eastern Quebec where there has been less than 85 mm of precipitation in the past 60 days.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Most of Atlantic Canada received below-normal precipitation in May. Eighteen per cent of the Atlantic Region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this includes 37 per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. All of Prince Edward Island was

classified as abnormally dry (D0), with nearly 40 per cent of the province in Moderate Drought (D1) as well. The capital, Charlottetown, received less than 100 mm of precipitation in the last 2 months. Poor streamflow can be found across southern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where D0 conditions exist, and less than 60% of normal precipitation was received in the last 60 days. Increasing precipitation deficits in Labrador over the last 3 months caused abnormally dry (D0) conditions to expand as well.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Conditions in northern Canada remain relatively unchanged throughout the month. Only six per cent of the northern region was classified as abnormally dry (D0), with no classification of drought. Precipitation based on both in situ stations and modeled data indicated that Northwest Territories received near-normal precipitation and continues to have above-average streamflow values. However, small regions in both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory did emerge as abnormally dry (D0).