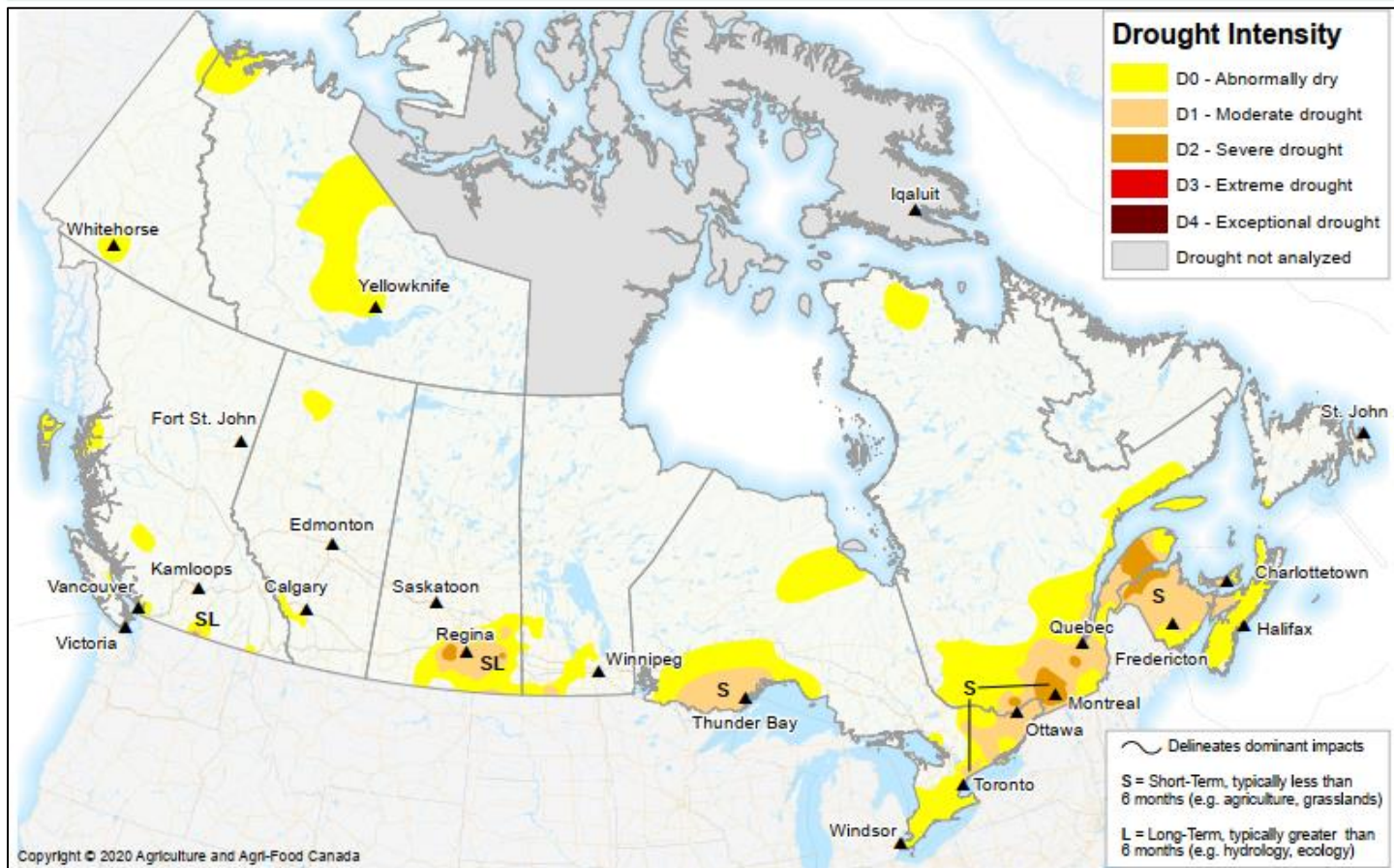


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 30, 2020



Throughout June, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remained and expanded across Canada and drought conditions deteriorated further in Eastern Canada. Most of Canada received near normal temperatures except for parts of British Columbia and Quebec where temperatures were warmer than normal. Fourteen per cent of the country was classified as either abnormally dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes thirty-four per cent of the agricultural landscape. Above normal precipitation caused D1 conditions to improve in western parts of British Columbia and across Vancouver Island. Conditions in the southern Prairies worsened as Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) pockets formed; however, Alberta saw significant improvement due to substantial precipitation received in the last 30 days. Abnormally dry (D0) conditions persisted and Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe



Drought (D2) formed in Central Canada as seen in western Ontario and southern Quebec due to short term below-normal precipitation and inadequate streamflow. Precipitation was well below average for much of Atlantic Canada as well, causing abnormally dry (D0) conditions as well as Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) to prevail; this particularly affected New Brunswick, but also parts of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Expansion of D0 in Northern Canada, specifically in the Northwest Territories, was identified using satellite-derived precipitation data.

## **Pacific Region (BC)**

Drought conditions improved in British Columbia throughout June due to above normal precipitation over the last 2 months. However, pockets of abnormally dry (D0) conditions persist in some coastal, central interior and eastern areas. Four per cent of the Central Region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes seven per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. Recent precipitation ameliorated conditions on Haida Gwaii from the previous month, leading to the removal of Moderate Drought (D1). A D0 pocket remains, however, extending out to Prince Rupert as less than 60 per cent of average precipitation was received in this area in the last 90 days; this remains the same for Vancouver Island as well. A small pocket of abnormally dry conditions (D0) developed south of Bella Coola in the central interior of the province. Excessive precipitation in central British Columbia led to flooding events and excess moisture causing D0 conditions to improve along the southern border, particularly near Grand Forks. The D1 pocket remained near Oliver and Severe Drought (D2) developed near Osoyoos due to short- and long-term precipitation deficits. A small pocket of D0 also remained near Creston because of below average precipitation in the past 3 months.

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

Drier conditions continued to plague the southern Prairies this month, while central parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta received ample precipitation. Eight per cent of the Central Region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes eighteen per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. Moist conditions were predominantly seen across much of Alberta in June resulting in normal to above-normal streamflow levels. Although abnormally dry (D0) conditions remain in northern Alberta, Moderate Drought (D1) conditions have improved around High Level due to above normal precipitation over the last 6 months. Pockets of abnormally dry (D0) conditions developed near Banff but significant precipitation of at least 80 mm during the last 5 days of the month caused

D0 conditions to improve in southern areas. D0 conditions also improved slightly in central Saskatchewan after receiving more than 125 mm over the last 3 months. However, southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba continue to experience abnormally dry (D0) conditions where less than 80 mm of precipitation has been received in the last 3 months. A pocket of D1 was expanded from Assiniboia towards Fort Qu'Appelle given that the area has seen less than 75 mm of precipitation compared to normal in the past 60 days. In addition, conditions deteriorated further around Moose Jaw due to receiving less than 40 per cent of average precipitation in the last 2 months, leading to the development of a Severe Drought (D2) pocket. Improvement of dry conditions were seen in northeastern Manitoba, but abnormally dry (D0) conditions remained in southwestern Manitoba; this led to the formation of a D1 pocket south of Brandon as less than 50 mm of normal precipitation was received in the last 30 days.

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

Central regions of the country saw conditions deteriorate throughout this month due to worsening dry conditions, particularly throughout southeastern Ontario and southern Quebec. Twenty-four per cent of the Central Region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes seventy-four per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. Conditions in northern Ontario remained relatively the same as the previous month, indicated by satellite-derived precipitation data and low streamflow levels. As such, the D0 and D1 pockets located around Thunder Bay remained in place. Conditions in central Ontario normalized throughout June, as at least 115 per cent of normal precipitation fell; this led to a few small D0 pockets being removed. Abnormally dry (D0) conditions shifted slightly more south from Windsor to Niagara Falls. In addition to this, conditions deteriorated from Oshawa, Ontario towards the Gaspé Peninsula as less than 60 percent of normal precipitation fell across much of this area in the last 2 months. This led to the expansion of D0 and the formation of a D1 and D2 pocket to form near Montreal. Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) also formed across parts of the Gaspé Peninsula after receiving less than 30 mm of precipitation in the last 30 days.

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

Much of Atlantic Canada was significantly impacted by the considerably low precipitation received in the past 2 months. Twenty-four per cent of the region was classified as either abnormally dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes ninety per cent of the region's agricultural landscape. Over the last 2 months, New Brunswick received

exceptionally below average precipitation and insufficient streamflow causing abnormally dry (D0) conditions to prevail and the development of D1 and D2 in the short term across the province. These conditions persisted across Prince Edward Island as well, where D0 remained in place with a small Moderate Drought (D1) pocket near Summerside due to less than 120 mm of precipitation falling in the past 90 days. The majority of Nova Scotia received less than 40 mm of precipitation this month, resulting in the expansion of abnormally dry (D0) conditions throughout much of the province. In contrast, D0 conditions improved in Labrador due to adequate streamflow values and satellite-derived precipitation data.

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

Conditions in the Northern Region were a mixed bag for the month of June, depending on the area of focus. Although no drought conditions exist, ten per cent of the region was classified as abnormally dry (D0). Pockets present in the Yukon, particularly between Dawson and Mayo, were removed due to adequate streamflow values; this area received 200 per cent of normal precipitation in June and saw very high snowpack values throughout the winter. Satellite derived data indicated not only that dryness persisted near Whitehorse, but also expanded in the Northwest Territories from Yellowknife towards Great Bear Lake. This resulted in the extension of abnormally dry (D0) conditions in the area.

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