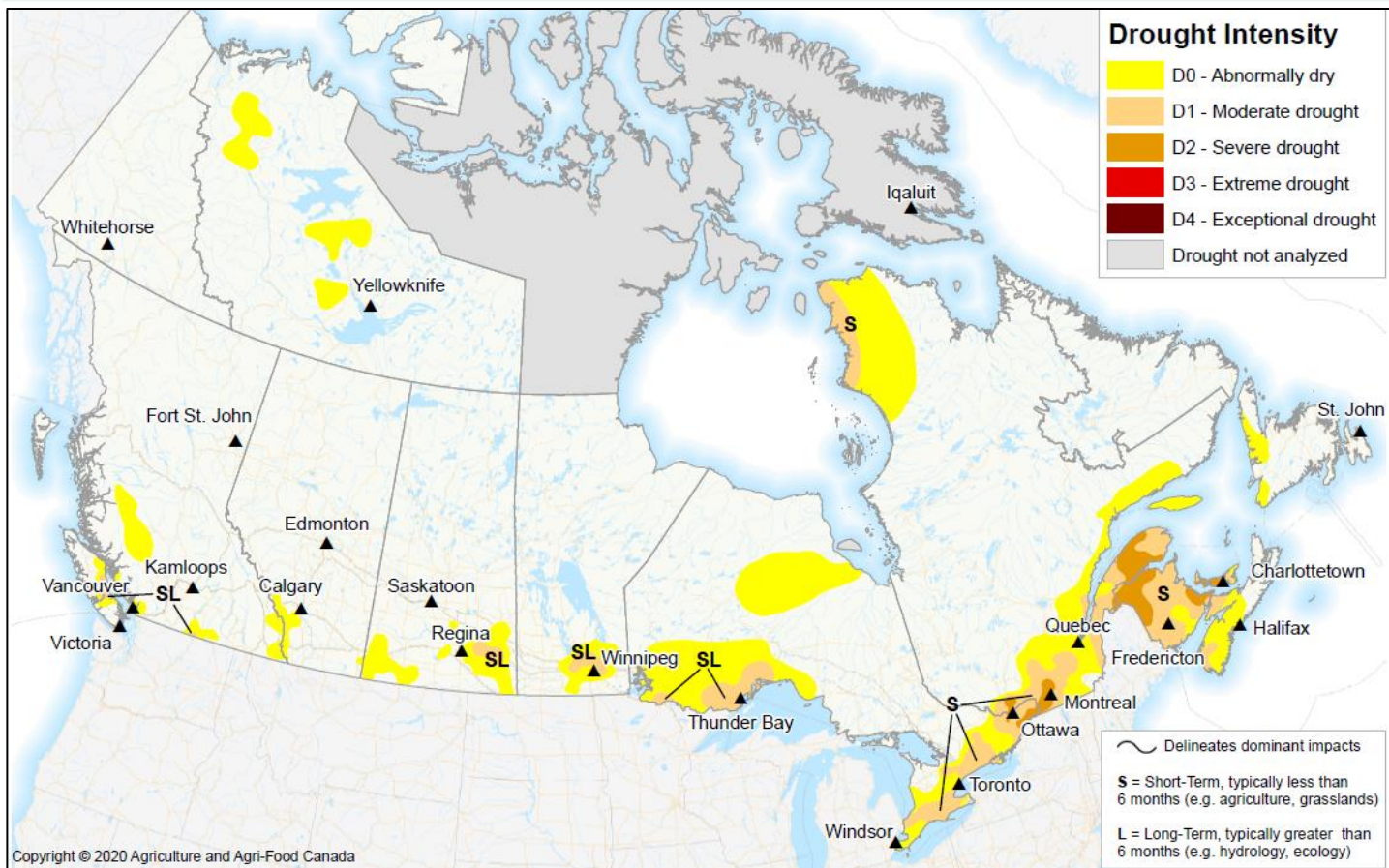


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of July 31, 2020



July precipitation was near normal throughout much of Canada except for southern British Columbia and parts of Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Despite late month rainfall in Ontario and parts of Quebec, drought conditions remain largely unchanged in that region due to an intense dry spell with abnormally warm temperatures in late June and early July. Western parts of the Atlantic region continued to receive well below normal precipitation, intensifying the drought conditions throughout the region. In the Prairies, convective storm events brought adequate precipitation to most areas throughout the region. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and pockets of Moderate Drought (D1) persist as water supplies and pastures continue to show drought impacts. In British Columbia, dry summer conditions persisted throughout the southern parts of the province resulting in little change to the drought conditions. Fifteen percent of the country



was classified as either abnormally dry or in drought; this includes twenty-eight percent of the agricultural landscape.

## **Pacific Region (BC)**

Drought and abnormally dry conditions throughout British Columbia remained relatively unchanged. Impacts of the below normal precipitation throughout much of the southern part of the province were minimized by good moisture levels prior to July. The eastern portion of Vancouver Island continued to experience below normal precipitation not only for the month of July, but also over the last 6 months. These factors were taken into consideration as Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were expanded and a pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) was added in the Courtenay and Port Alberni region. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions emerged along the Alberta/B.C. border region from Fernie to Crowsnest Pass given satellite data indicating this area as being dry. In addition, an area in the interior stretching from Anahim Lake to Chilko Lake was identified as having 50-75 percent of normal precipitation in the last 90 days; a pocket of D0 was expanded here as a result. Although conditions have not changed drastically in the last 30 days, the patch of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and Moderate Drought (D1) remained in place around Penticton and Osoyoos. While the southern portion of the province received below normal rainfall, central and northern areas continued to receive substantial precipitation. Areas such as Haida Gwaii saw the removal of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions due to abundant precipitation through the northern and coastal regions. Compared to last month, there was only a one percent increase in Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions across the province.

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

Most of the Prairie region continued to receive adequate rainfall including localized convective storm activity. However a few pockets of the region continued to remain as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1). Overall drought in the region has improved despite emerging dry conditions in southeastern Manitoba. Approximately six percent of the Prairie region was classified as either Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this includes fourteen percent of the region's agricultural landscape. As of the end of July, the Prairie region contained only two small regions of Moderate Drought (D1) as the Severe Drought (D2) regions previous in southeastern Saskatchewan improved. Several Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets developed despite general improvement through the region. The southern foothills and mountain region in western Alberta received below normal precipitation resulting in abnormally dry classification. The southwestern portion of Saskatchewan showed below normal precipitation and short hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions resulting in the classification of

Abnormally Dry (D0) around Maple Creek, Swift Current and Cypress Hills region. In addition, short- and long-term dry conditions in southeastern Saskatchewan have resulted in poor pasture and water supply concerns, resulting in a redevelopment of Abnormally Dry (D0) classification. The long-standing pocket of drought and abnormally dry conditions in northern Alberta was removed given sufficient precipitation over the last 2 months. In Manitoba a pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) emerged around Winnipeg due to significant dryness reported over the last 3-6 months.

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

High temperatures and precipitation deficits through the first half of July intensified drought conditions across much of southern Ontario and Quebec; Abnormally Dry (D0), Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) conditions all persisted across the region. Over twenty-six percent of the region was classified as abnormally dry or in drought, including sixty-four percent of the region's agricultural landscape. Conditions were not much better in northwestern Ontario, where long-term precipitation deficits persisted from Atikokan to Thunder Bay and Nipigon. Data indicated that this area only received 50-75 percent of normal precipitation since November 2019; as such, D0 and D1 conditions remained in this area. Two pockets of Moderate Drought (D1) were added in southern Ontario, one from London to Burlington, the other from Newmarket to Belleville, as multiple drought indicators including SPI, SPEI and precipitation percentiles indicated dry conditions in the past 2 months. Significant dryness also persisted in an area surrounding Ottawa and south towards of Granby, Quebec, leading to the expansion of Severe Drought (D2) conditions. While areas in central Quebec have seen improved moisture for the month of July, data indicated this area is still experiencing some surface soil moisture and groundwater level deficits. Thus, Moderate Drought (D1) was improved in the area but Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remain in place. Various data also indicated the northern portion of Quebec received between 50-100 percent below normal precipitation in the last 3 months, leading to the addition of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions.

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

While there was slightly improved precipitation in parts of New Brunswick and across the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec in July, the region is still suffering from significant precipitation deficits. Twenty-four percent of the region was classified as either Abnormally Dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes more than eighty-six percent of the region's agricultural landscape. In the past 3-6 months, the lowest possible SPI and SPEI values were recorded; this translates to 40-60 percent of normal precipitation in the past 2-3 months.

Additionally, streamflow levels were very low across nearly all New Brunswick and into P.E.I., specifically around Summerside and Charlottetown. These areas also recorded Extremely Low to Exceptionally Low Percentile values in the past 6 months. Given these factors, two areas of Severe Drought (D2) were added across the Atlantic region: one stretching from the Gaspé peninsula towards Grand Falls and Edmundston, while the other includes Moncton, Bouctouche and the western edge of P.E.I. An additional pocket of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions was also added to the western portion of Newfoundland.

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

In general, the territories have seen improvement in precipitation over the past month. The D0 surrounding Whitehorse, Yukon was removed as well as the pocket of D0 near Inuvik, NWT. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions have also improved from Yellowknife towards Great Bear Lake as a result of the improved precipitation values. However, an area in the northeastern part of the Northwest Territories was identified as being drier than normal according to satellite data. A patch of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions was added from Fort Good Hope, north along the Mackenzie River. Only twelve percent of the region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) for the month of July.

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