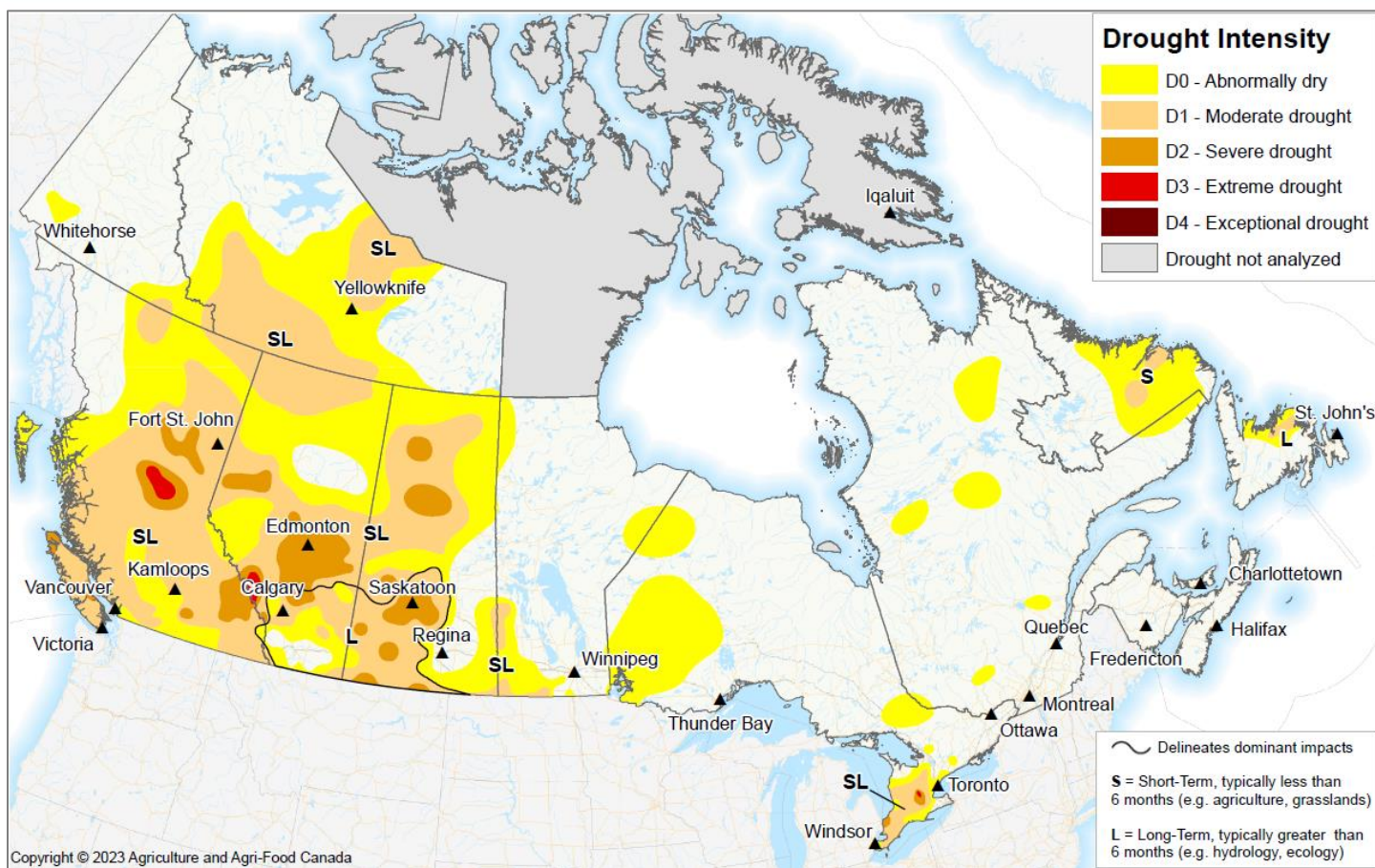


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2022



Drought conditions continued to improve in most regions across the country in January. Snowpack remained low across much of Western Canada resulting in concerns for limited spring runoff, especially in British Columbia and parts of Alberta. Winter precipitation in the Prairie region to date was near- to above-normal in areas that were dry going into the winter. However, long-term indicators continued to improve despite lower than normal precipitation in January, resulting in reduced drought severity in some regions. The most significant changes to drought this month were across coastal British Columbia followed by pockets of improvement across the Prairies. Eastern Canada saw more significant precipitation resulting in continued improvement, specifically in Atlantic Canada and southern regions of Ontario and Quebec. Although the extent of drought across the country remained similar to last month, the overall



severity of drought conditions improved. Temperatures were above normal across the entire country in January, with significantly warmer than normal temperatures across northern Alberta and southern Yukon and NWT; these areas saw temperatures greater than 5 degrees above normal.

At the end of the month, forty percent of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including sixty-five percent of the country's agricultural landscape. There was no Exceptional Drought (D4) reported this month.

Pacific Region (BC)

Drought conditions continued to improve throughout most of the Pacific region with adequate precipitation and above-normal temperatures through January. The Lower Mainland and much of Vancouver Island received more than 125 mm of precipitation this past month. Despite this being below normal, the rainfall helped improve soil moisture and streamflow through the region, and therefore, the severity of the drought was reduced. Changes in the designation this month include the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) and improvement to Severe Drought (D2) on Vancouver Island as a result of improved precipitation in December and January. Streamflows and water supplies continued to improve, though remained below normal. Near-normal winter precipitation in the southern Interior continued to improve the drought situation despite a drier than normal January; this led to the removal of Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought pockets in this region. Central parts of the Interior region received above-normal precipitation in January which resulted in overall improvement as well as decreased size and severity of Severe Drought (D2). Coastal areas of British Columbia received near-normal precipitation this month despite below-normal accumulations during the winter season.

Snowpack continued to be below normal across the province due to warmer than normal temperatures in November and early December. The only exceptions to low snowpack levels were the Lower Thompson region in southern British Columbia, which reported 200 percent of normal levels while the Okanagan and Boundary regions reported 135 percent and 129 percent, respectively. The Summerland Reservoir broke a 58-year record in the Okanagan with a snowpack of 197 percent above normal levels. At the other end of the spectrum, the Upper Fraser West reported the lowest snowpack in the province, sitting at only 50 percent of normal levels. There is concern that drought may extend into the spring and summer due to the below-normal snowpack, however there is still time for conditions to improve.

At the end of the month, eighty-seven percent of the Pacific Region was considered Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including nearly one hundred percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

January brought above-average temperatures and below-normal precipitation across much of the Prairie Region. Southern Manitoba as well as central Alberta and parts of south and central Saskatchewan received the least amount of precipitation this month, while remaining areas received near- to slightly below-normal accumulations. So far this winter, precipitation has been near- to above-normal across southern and central Alberta as well as much of western and central Saskatchewan, while northeastern Alberta and southeastern Saskatchewan were drier than normal. In contrast, winter precipitation across southern Manitoba was below normal with most of the area reporting significant deficits. Although these deficits have been quite low throughout the winter, drought degradation was minimal this month due to limited average seasonal precipitation in addition to good soil moisture and water supplies going into the winter. Minimal changes were made in northern parts of the Prairies this month as Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remained due to precipitation accumulations similar to previous months.

Changes this month included improvements to Severe Drought (D2) in southern Saskatchewan as well as the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) around Saskatoon. There was a minor shift to the Severe Drought (D3) in central Alberta, but much of the D3 remained. Extreme Drought (D3) along the Rockies also remained in place due to continued dry conditions this month. Although winter precipitation has improved throughout the winter, many parts of Alberta would benefit from continued precipitation in order to make up for the well below-normal soil moisture reserves and depleted surface water supplies in the fall. In Manitoba, there was a minor expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) in southern areas due to dry conditions in the last 3 to 6 months.

At the end of the month, sixty-six percent of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including eighty percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Much of the Central region received near- to above-normal precipitation in January. Long-term precipitation deficits remained near Kitchener-Waterloo and Sarnia in southern Ontario, but recent precipitation helped to reduce Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) in these areas. Above-normal temperatures were reported this month, with some as high as 4 degrees warmer than normal.

In southern Ontario, there was a minor reduction to Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) around the Kitchener-Waterloo area and a reduction to Severe Drought (D2) around Chatham-Kent. However, Severe Drought (D2) remained around Sarnia as well as a small expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) towards Lake Huron. Drought conditions remained stable across the rest of the region, except for minor improvements to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in northwestern Ontario and the Gaspé Peninsula in eastern Quebec.

At the end of the month, fourteen percent of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including twenty-three percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Temperatures continued to be above normal in January with much of the region more than 4 degrees warmer than normal. Significant moisture fell across the Atlantic region this month: upwards of 200 mm, equal to more than 150 percent of normal. Both short- and long-term precipitation amounts were reported across New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I., leading to the full removal of all drought and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions this month. Although much of Newfoundland also reported above-normal precipitation amounts in the past year, a small portion in the northeast corner of the island remained dry, leading to a small pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) conditions to remain.

There was an overall reduction in drought conditions across the region in January due to adequate moisture. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were removed in Nova Scotia while Severe Drought (D2) was removed in Newfoundland along with a reduction in both Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and Moderate Drought (D1). Drought conditions remained static across Labrador.

At the end of the month, twenty-five percent of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1), including only one percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Drought in Northern Canada remained fairly stable in January, with limited changes occurring north of Yellowknife, NWT. Near- to above-normal precipitation fell across much of the region this month, but overall precipitation deficits did not change significantly. In southern areas, Severe Drought (D2) was removed as well as a slight modification to Moderate Drought (D1) in the southwest due to improved precipitation in the last few months. However, there was also an expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) in northeastern NWT due to below-normal precipitation in that area. The region saw well above-normal temperatures this month with some areas experiencing temperatures as high as 4 to 5 degrees warmer than normal. In northern Yukon, the community of Old Crow, reported their warmest January on record, while Yellowknife in NWT reported their 2nd warmest.

At the end of the month, twenty-eight percent of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1).