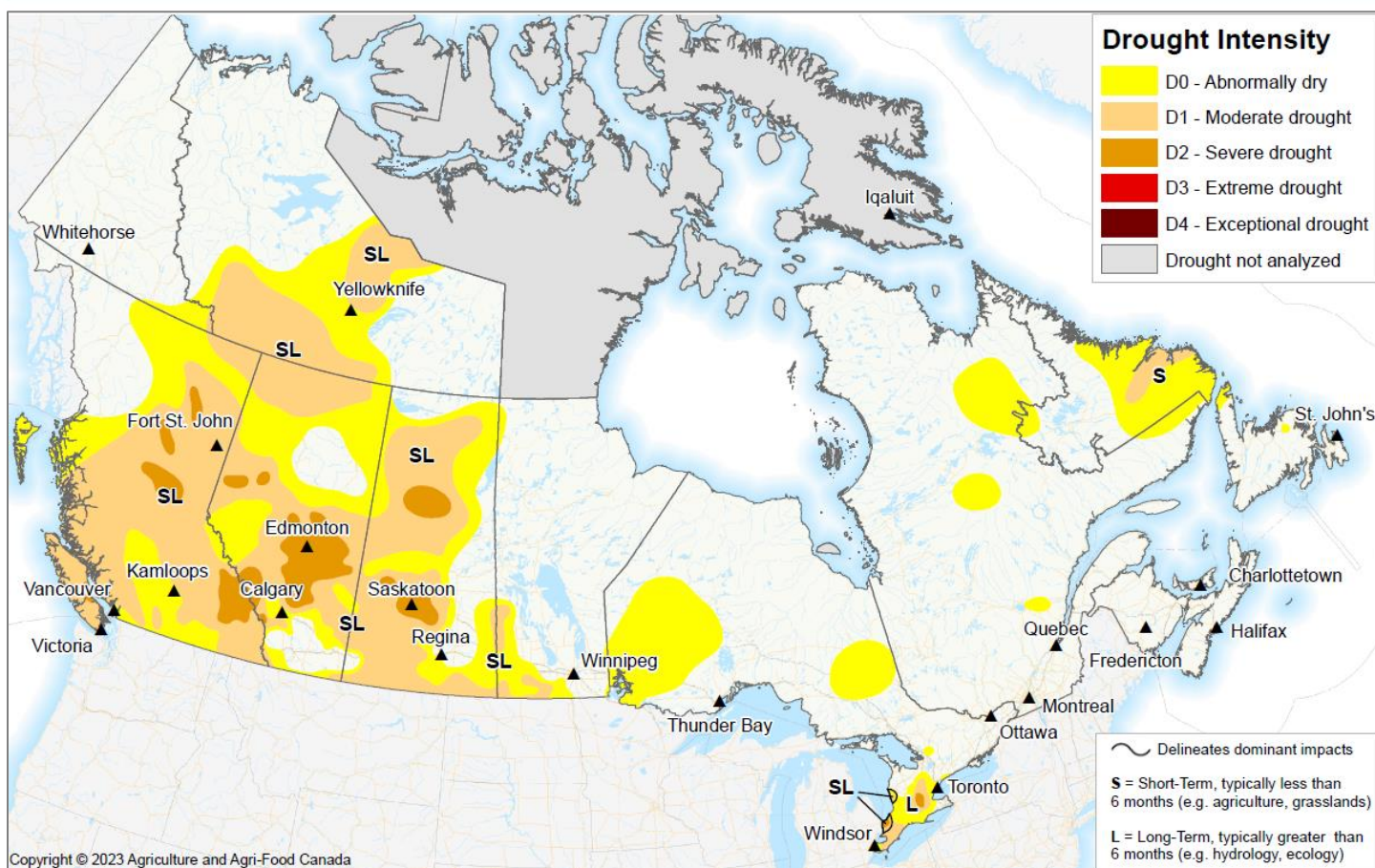


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28, 2022



Drought conditions across Canada continued to improve in most regions in February resulting in the removal of all Extreme Drought (D3). Snowpack improved slightly across much of Western Canada, which helped to reduce 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 across Alberta and through western and southern parts of Saskatchewan, while southeastern Saskatchewan and much of Manitoba received below-normal precipitation; these areas were one of few that saw an expansion of drought this month. Long-term indicators across the country continued to improve despite variable February precipitation, resulting in reduced drought severity in some areas. The most significant changes to drought this month included the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) around Prince George, B.C., Banff National Park



in Alberta and around Kitchener, Ontario. Eastern Canada saw more significant precipitation resulting in continued improvement, specifically in parts of southern Ontario. Temperatures were variable across the entire country in February: cooler temperatures dominated the Prairie region while warmer than normal temperatures occurred across southern Ontario and Quebec.

At the end of the month, 37% of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Severe Drought (D1 to D2), including 62% of the country's agricultural landscape. There was no Extreme or Exceptional Drought (D3 or D4) reported this month.

Pacific Region (BC)

Drought conditions continued to improve in February with significant precipitation across much of central British Columbia, while parts of southern B.C. including Vancouver received less-than-normal precipitation. A number of locations broke 24-hour snowfall records this month including Abbotsford, Williams Lake and Kamloops. Much of the northern coast and Upper Fraser areas received 200 to 400% of normal February precipitation. This recent precipitation improved snow pack conditions and reduce overall drought conditions in the area, including the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) around Prince George. Severe Drought (D2) was removed from the Kelowna area as well as the northern portion of Vancouver Island. Temperatures were reported as near-normal across the province this month, and as a result, did not impact drought designations.

Although February brought improved precipitation across central parts of the Pacific region this month, much of the remaining drought persisted. Nearly the entire province reported below-normal precipitation since September 1st, with many areas receiving 30% less moisture than average. Central parts of Vancouver Island as well as the Okanagan and Kootenay regions received 40 to 60% of normal precipitation in February. South Thompson, Similkameen and North Thompson basins reported below-normal snow depths which may be an early indicator of spring drought risk. In contrast, the Okanagan, Lower Thompson and Boundary basins continued to report greater than 100% normal snowpacks, leading to reduced drought concern in these areas.

At the end of the month, 83% of the Pacific Region was considered Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Severe Drought (D1 to D2), including nearly 100% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Precipitation across the Prairie region was variable in January: the greatest amount of precipitation fell across western Alberta while all of Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan received below-normal precipitation. So far this winter, precipitation has been near- to above-normal across southern and eastern Alberta as well as much of western and central Saskatchewan. In contrast, northeastern Alberta, southeastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba were drier than normal, reporting significant precipitation deficits. The deficits in southern Manitoba have been quite low throughout the winter, resulting in the expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0). There was minimal change to drought conditions in northern parts of the Prairies this month as precipitation accumulations remained similar to previous months.

February brought significantly above-normal monthly precipitation across the Rockies, which have not seen much in precipitation throughout the winter. Given this improvement, the Extreme Drought (D3) was removed in this area. Southern Alberta also received enough precipitation to see the Moderate Drought (D1) removed around Brooks. Pockets of Moderate Drought (D1) were also removed across southern parts of Saskatchewan as well as northwest of Cree Lake in the north. 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. Although precipitation accumulations have generally improved throughout the winter, many parts of the Prairies 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.

At the end of the month, 60% of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Severe Drought (D1 to D2), including 78% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In the Central region, near- to above-normal precipitation fell across Ontario and southern Quebec in February. A number of storm systems passed through southern Ontario this month bringing freezing rain and snow squalls. These storm systems improved long-term precipitation deficits resulting in the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) around Kitchener-Waterloo as well as the removal of Moderate Drought (D1) from Carlton to London in southeast Ontario. In contrast, the Gaspé Region of Quebec received below-average precipitation this month. Above-normal temperatures were reported again this month in southern Ontario, with some as high as

4 degrees warmer than normal. Drought conditions remained stable across the rest of the region.

At the end of the month, 14% of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Severe Drought (D1 to D2), including 17% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Temperatures were near- to below-normal in February with parts of Newfoundland and Labrador experiencing temperatures more than 3 degrees cooler than normal. Precipitation was below-normal in February; however, this had little to effect the region with the significant precipitation over the last year. This significant moisture also helped to alleviate the remaining Moderate Drought (D0) and much of the Abnormally Dry (D0) in Newfoundland as well. However, conditions across Labrador remained quite dry and resulted in a slight expansion of Moderate Drought (D1).

At the end of the month, 26% of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1), however this did not impact any of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Precipitation across the Northern Region was near- to above-normal in the west and slightly below-normal in the east this month with generally below-normal temperatures reported across the region. Drought in Northern Canada remained fairly stable in January, with limited improvements occurring in the Yukon including the removal of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions around Dawson City as well as the reduction of Abnormally Dry (D0) and removal of Moderate Drought (D1) in southeastern Yukon. Minor reductions to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and Moderate Drought (D1) also occurred across northwestern NWT.

At the end of the month, 20% of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1).

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