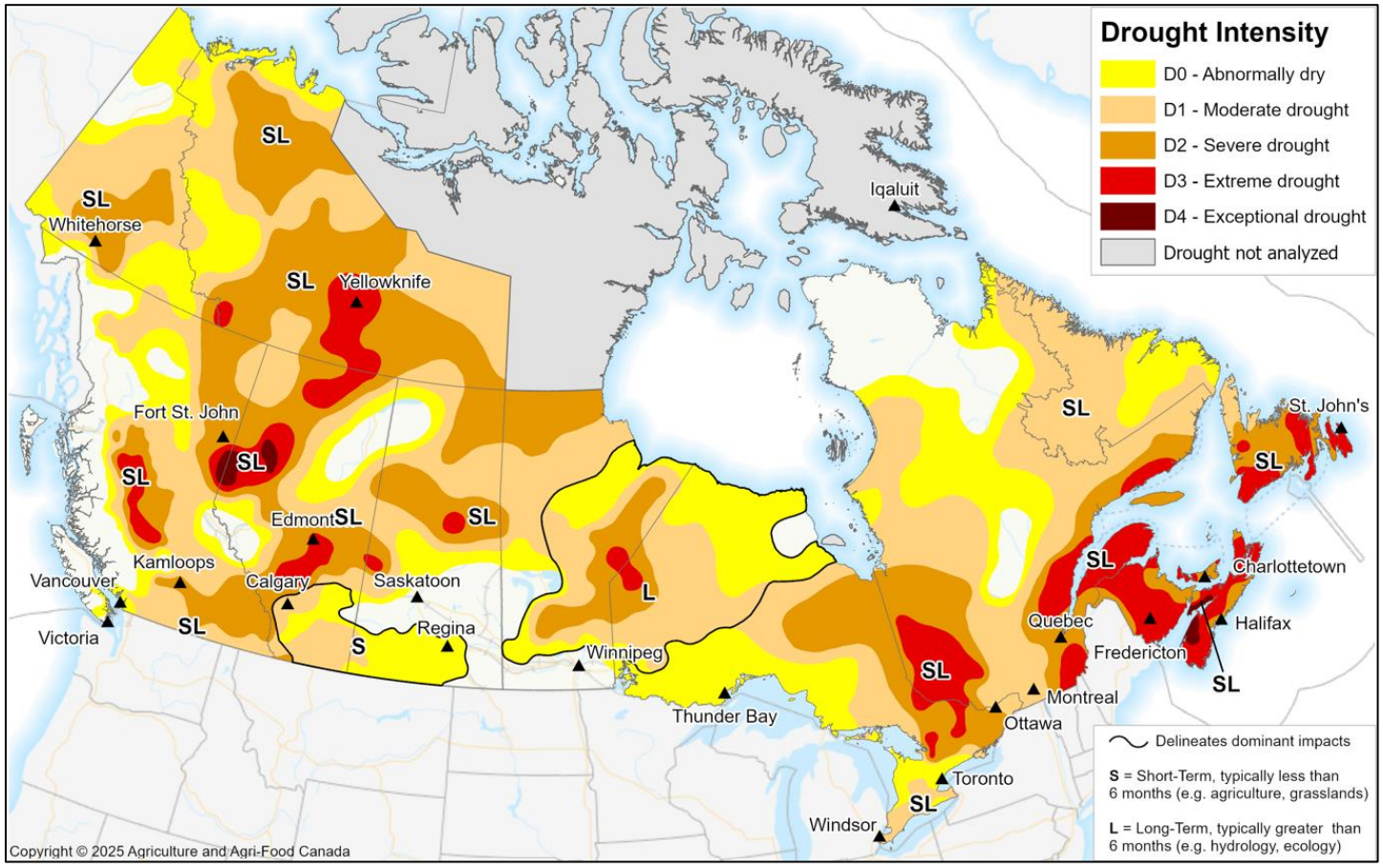
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of October 31, 2025



In October, large regions of the country received above normal precipitation, resulting in moderate drought improvement. These regions include Coastal and southwestern British Columbia, the northern Prairies - particularly northeastern Alberta, southern Manitoba, portions of eastern Ontario, southwestern Quebec and southeast New Brunswick. Despite significant drought improvement, many regions of the country continued to receive below normal precipitation resulting in sustained or increased drought severity. Below normal precipitation, poor soil moisture and low streamflow lead to the expansion of drought extent and severity throughout British Columbia's central interior, west central and southern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan, southeastern Quebec and Newfoundland. Monthly mean temperatures were well above normal across Canada, with the exception of small portions of Northern BC and Alberta. As of October 31, the majority of the country continued to be classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in drought.

At the end of the month, 84% of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 80% of the country's agricultural landscape.

Pacific Region (BC)

British Columbia experienced near normal temperatures and highly varied precipitation through October. Coastal British Columbia continued to receive significant precipitation, with many stations recording 125 to 150% of normal for October. The southern portion of the province also saw above normal precipitation recording between 100 to 200 mm, improving soil moisture and steam flow. The central Interior continued to see below normal precipitation receiving only 40-60% of normal. Much of northeastern B.C. received normal precipitation in October with the exception of regions north of Fort Nelson which received below 50% of normal.
The significant precipitation through Coastal British Columbia resulted in improved soil moisture, stream flow and surface water supplies. As a result drought classifications have improved, resulting in the removal of all drought classification on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Coastal Mountains and the Sunshine Coast. The Severe Drought (D2) classification was also removed from southwestern regions as recent precipitation and normal temperatures have resulted in improved soil moisture, and improved streamflow. This includes the area around Merritt, Hope, Grand Forks and Trail. Drought conditions increased in severity and extent as a result of the below normal precipitation through the central interior. Extreme Drought (D3) now covers an area from Burns Lake to Williams Lake, including portions of the Nechako and Fraser Plateaus. Despite normal or above normal through parts of the northeastern region, the precipitation was not enough to make a significant impact on the ongoing drought which remains rated as Severe (D2) to Exceptional (D4). The multiyear drought has resulted in severe surface water shortages, well below normal stream flow and reduced groundwater. Water restrictions remain in place for many municipalities in Northeastern British Columbia.

At the end of the month, 71% of the Pacific Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Exceptional Drought (D1 to D4), including 93% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Dry conditions continued to dominated much of the western Prairies, while the eastern Prairies received above normal precipitation through October. Several locations recorded temperatures above 20°C during the last week of October in each of the three provinces. A few storm events generated significant precipitation across the Prairies, especially in northeastern Alberta, east-central Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba, with several stations recording above 200% of normal precipitation. Well below normal precipitation continued through west central Alberta, southern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan, and the Peace Region. Calgary and Red Deer recorded just 12 and 13% of normal monthly precipitation, while Medicine Hat recorded 23% of normal.

Poor precipitation throughout west-central and southern regions of Alberta resulted in the expansion of the extent and severity of drought heading into the winter. A large pocket of short-term Extreme Drought (D3) developed between Calgary and Edmonton due to exceptional low precipitation this fall. October was the second consecutive month of precipitation being below 40% of normal through this region. Southern Alberta, southwestern and south-central Saskatchewan continued to receive below normal precipitation resulting in the expansion of the Moderate Drought (D1) and the Abnormally Dry (D0) regions. Outside these regions most of the prairies received normal or above normal precipitation resulting in general improvement. Much of northeastern Alberta received greater than 150% of normal monthly precipitation, including 226 % of normal in Fort McMurray. The substantial precipitation resulted in the reduction of Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3). Significant precipitation fell in East-central Saskatchewan and west-central Manitoba improving remaining drought regions. Much of southern Manitoba recorded more than twice the normal October precipitation. October and September precipitation has resulted in improved soil moisture, streamflow and surface water and resulted in drought conditions being significantly reduced in all areas of southern Manitoba.

At the end of the month, 82% of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Exceptional Drought (D1 to D4), including 68% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Warmer-than-normal temperatures persisted across much of the Central Region through October, especially in northwestern Ontario and northern Quebec. Temperatures were closer to seasonal across southern Ontario. Precipitation was near normal across much of Ontario as late-month storms brought substantial precipitation to southern and eastern Ontario, improving short-term moisture levels. Significant moisture was received in parts of northwestern Ontario, where several communities including Kenora recorded more than 200% of normal precipitation.

Northwest Ontario experienced overall improvement in drought conditions, including a reduction in Severe Drought (D2) and the removal of a pocket of Extreme Drought (D3). Areas west of Thunder Bay improved from Moderate Drought (D1) to Abnormally Dry (D0) following sustained rainfall. In Central Ontario and southwest Quebec, drought conditions worsened, with the expansion of Severe (D2) and Extreme (D3) drought around the North Bay and Val-d'Or corridor. Low water levels prompted the North Bay–Mattawa Conservation Authority to upgrade to a Level 2 low water condition. The Trent-Severn Waterway and its surrounding watersheds continued to experience low levels, attributed to a dry late summer and fall. Across Southern Ontario, overall drought severity eased slightly, with many areas shifting to Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions due to recent precipitation events. However, significant droughts remain in areas north of the Greater Toronto Area, including Barrie, Kingston, and Ottawa, where Severe Drought (D2) and pockets of Extreme Drought (D3) persist. Severe impacts continue in drought-affected agricultural zones. Several conservation authorities, including the Lower Trent and Cataraqui, maintained or elevated Level 3 low-water advisories as streamflow and

groundwater levels remained critically low. The rainfall received at the end of the month was insufficient to alleviate drought conditions and replenish surface water supplies in this region.

In Southeastern Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula, drought intensified, with short-term Extreme Drought (D3) conditions emerging around Sherbrooke and expanding across the Gaspé region into New Brunswick. Ongoing dryness contributed to elevated wildfire risk in parts of western Quebec, with the Outaouais reporting multiple active fires and extreme fire risk. Northern Quebec showed a slight improvement in drought conditions.

At the end of the month, 86% of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 99% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Much of the Atlantic Region received 40 to 85% of normal precipitation, except for a small area around southeastern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia, which received 120 to 150 mm of precipitation. Localised above-normal precipitation offered limited short-term relief to precipitation deficits across southeastern New Brunswick; however, this was not enough to fully alleviate drought conditions. Temperatures across the Atlantic Region were generally above normal, ranging from 2–4°C across New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, with slightly warmer values of 4–5°C observed in Labrador.

In New Brunswick, drought conditions were largely maintained, with Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) persisting. Exceptional Drought (D4) was removed, as recent precipitation helped alleviate some precipitation deficits. While two storm systems mid-month and a significant event late in the month delivered 100-150 mm of precipitation through southeastern New Brunswick, totals were insufficient to alleviate deeper moisture deficits meaningfully. Impacts to surface water supplies and groundwater remained due to long-term drought conditions. Water levels in the Saint John River remained more than one metre below historic averages in early October. Numerous private wells ran dry, particularly in the Acadian Peninsula, Moncton–St. Stephen corridor, and Grand Lake–Fredericton region, marking one of the most widespread groundwater shortages in provincial history. Farmers continued to report crop losses of up to 50% in heat and drought-sensitive vegetables, such as squash, cucumbers, and corn, along with reduced crop size. Maple producers also experienced significant operational challenges, citing lower sap flow and reduced sugar content. Prince Edward Island observed slight improvements, where Extreme Drought (D3) now primarily affects the western portions of the island, rather than the province as a whole. In Nova Scotia, drought conditions were generally maintained, with a slight expansion of Extreme Drought (D3), while Severe (D2) to Exceptional Drought (D4) remained across the province. The most severe conditions persisted along the province’s southwestern edge, where Exceptional Drought (D4). Significant agricultural impacts were noted, including a 55% decline in blueberry yields provincially, attributed to prolonged heat and moisture stress. Producers reporte d ongoing difficulty securing water for livestock and crops. Domestic wells continued to fail in hard-hit regions, including Shelburne, where emergency response measures such as water coupon distribution (4

L/day/person) were implemented. In Newfoundland and Labrador, drought conditions worsened, varying in severity, with Newfoundland experiencing more severe drought conditions compared to Labrador. In Newfoundland, a Severe Drought (D2) expanded across most of the island, except for the northwestern peninsula, where Moderate Drought (D1) persists. Additionally, three pockets of Extreme Drought (D3) emerged. For water supplies, municipal reservoirs in St. John's remained critically low following a prolonged summer and fall dry spell. Reports from rural residents highlighted near-dry wells and a reliance on alternative water sources, such as local ponds, to sustain households and livestock. Over 40 hydrometric stations recorded below-normal water levels late in the month, with 10 reaching all-time lows, prompting water conservation advisories across numerous communities. In Labrador, drought conditions worsened slightly, with Severe Drought (D2) expanding across much of the region.

At the end of the month, 100% of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Exceptional Drought (D1 to D4), including 100% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

In October, much of the Northern Region continued to face warm and dry conditions. Temperatures were 3 °C to over 5 °C above normal. Southern portions of the Northwest Territories and pockets of southeastern Yukon were more than 5 °C above normal. Precipitation patterns varied across the region, however precipitation received was not enough to make significant reductions in any of the long term drought regions. In the Yukon, the southeast remained dry, while central and western Yukon saw 150–300% of normal precipitation; however, southern and northern areas trended drier. The first snowfall at lower elevations in southern Yukon was observed late in the month, with a total of less than 3cm. Similarly, in the Northwest Territory, southern areas received drier conditions than 75% of normal precipitation, while the rest of the territory recorded near-normal to well-above-normal precipitation.

In Yukon, drought conditions slightly expanded through October, primarily in the southwest where Moderate Drought (D1) areas grew and a pocket of Severe Drought (D2) emerged. Despite normal to above-normal precipitation in the central and western parts of the territory, the southern and southeastern areas continued to experience dryness.

In the Northwest Territories, drought conditions persisted this month due to warm and dry conditions. The Dehcho region averaged approximately 8.1 °C during September and October, roughly 5 °C above the 30-year normal, one of the warmest early-fall periods on record. Long-term drought impacts were increasingly evident near Fort Smith, where water tables were estimated to be about six feet below normal. Local creeks and muskegs, which are typically saturated, have dried out, and residents have reported being able to walk across formerly waterlogged areas. Similarly, major lakes and river systems across the territory, including Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake, and the Slave, Hay, and Mackenzie Rivers, remained below average for the monitoring period. Ecological stress was increasingly visible, with reports of widespread black spruce decline northwest of Lac La Martre extending to the Sahtu

border, and jack pine mortality in exposed areas along the Ingraham Trail. E. Despite isolated precipitation events, the persistence of very warm, dry conditions has solidified multi-season drought impacts across the Northwest Territories.

At the end of the month, 85% of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3).