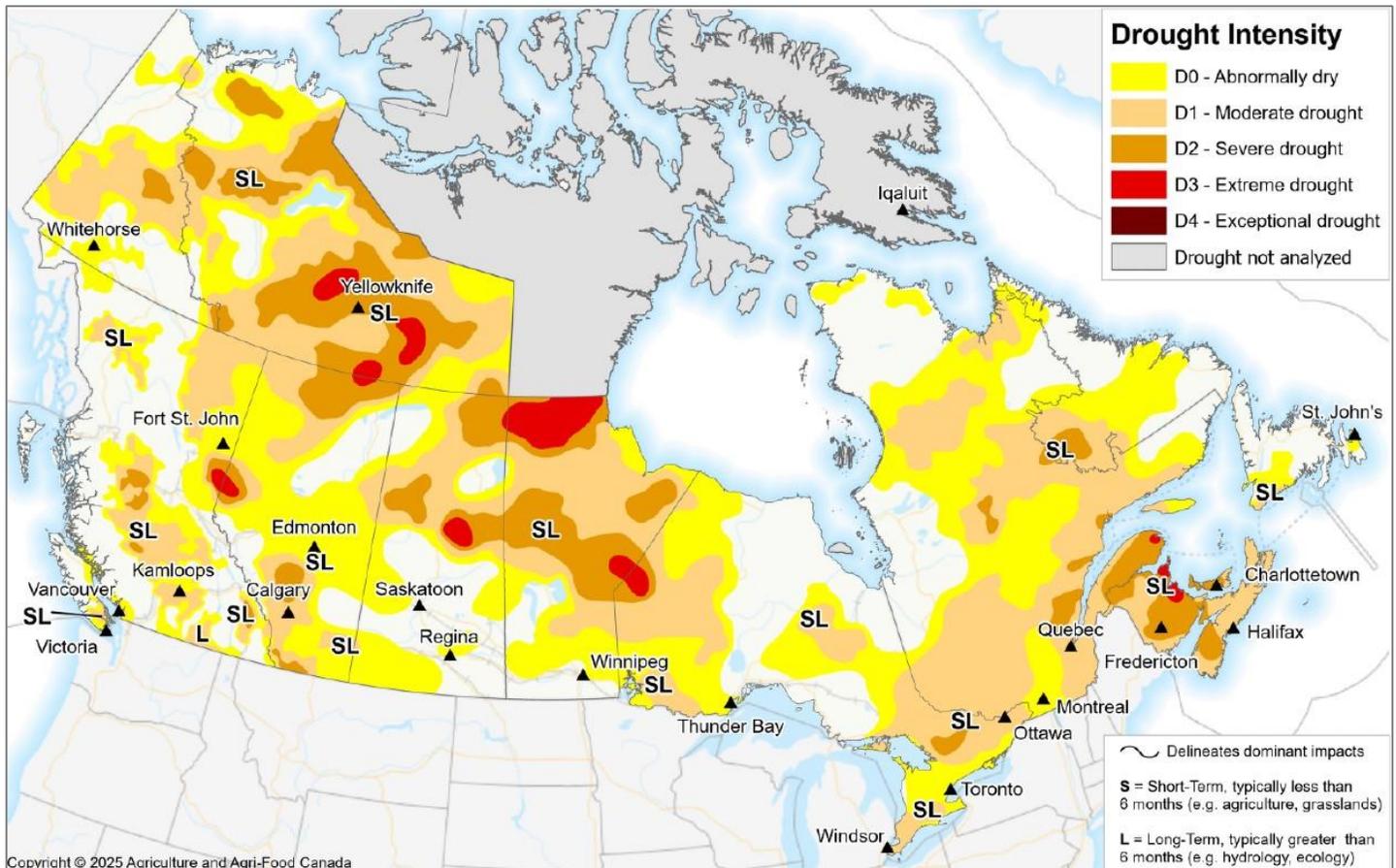


# Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of January 31, 2026



Precipitation throughout Canada in January was highly variable with some areas including the northern region receiving well above normal precipitation, while others including British Columbia's Interior, much of Alberta and Parts of New Brunswick receiving below to well below normal precipitation. Temperatures were also highly variable with monthly mean temperatures being well above normal in British Columbia and Alberta, cooler than normal in Manitoba and Ontario and warmer than normal in Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Well above normal temperatures throughout British Columbia and Alberta resulted in more than normal precipitation falling as rain rather than snow as well as significantly reduced snowpack. As a result of low precipitation and warmer than normal temperatures in southern regions of British Columbia and Alberta drought conditions expanded slightly, with the most significant degradation in Central Alberta. Eastern Canada experienced moderate improvement in drought conditions with continued precipitation through much of the region.

At the end of the month, 68% of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3), including 72% of the country's agricultural landscape.

## **Pacific Region (BC)**

Overall conditions across British Columbia were dominated by warm and dry weather, particularly across the southeast and interior regions. January began with increased precipitation associated with atmospheric river events, but transitioned to warm, dry conditions with limited snowfall later in the month. This prolonged dry and warm pattern led to reduced snow accumulation and declining snowpack across much of the province, with especially pronounced deficits along the coast and southern BC, where several locations received less than 25% of normal snowfall by month-end. Temperatures were above normal across most of the province, exceeding 2°C above normal in interior regions and more than 5°C above normal in northeastern British Columbia. Precipitation was below normal across the southern Interior and Peace Region, while northwestern BC and parts of the Central Coast received near to above-normal precipitation.

Drought conditions worsened slightly through the south and improved in some central and northern areas. In Southern BC, the Lower Mainland–Southwest experienced minimal changes, despite localized heavy rainfall events. The Thompson–Okanagan region saw slight deterioration, as Abnormally Dry (D0) expanded along southwestern portions due to continued precipitation deficits and very low January totals at Penticton (8.9% of normal) and Kelowna (25.2% of normal), both recording their driest January. In the Kootenay region, conditions improved overall, with removal of some Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1), however, a pocket of D2 persisted along the Kootenay Ranges where longer-term moisture deficits remain. In Central BC, drought conditions were largely unchanged in the Cariboo where Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) were maintained, while the Nechako region saw improvements, including reduced Abnormally Dry (D0) and slight reductions in Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) following increased precipitation. In Northern BC, the Peace River region maintained existing Abnormally Dry (D0) to Extreme Drought (D3) and saw a slight expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) as the region received less than 40% of normal precipitation and saw ongoing drought impacts particularly around Dawson Creek. The Northwest Nechako and North Coast regions experienced slight improvements, with and reductions in Moderate Drought (D1) due to above-normal precipitation and stronger snowpack conditions in northern basins.

At the end of the month, 49% of the Pacific Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3), including 72% of the region's agricultural landscape.

## Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Overall conditions across the Prairie Region were shaped by strong temperature contrasts and widespread precipitation deficits. January included a prolonged mid-month warm spell, with temperatures 10 to 20°C above normal that accelerated snowmelt and reduced snow cover, particularly across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Mean monthly temperatures were above normal across Alberta, with temperatures 3 to 5°C above normal in western and southern areas and more than 5°C in parts of the Peace Region, while southeastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba were closer to normal near- or below-normal. Precipitation was well below normal across much of the southern Prairies, with many areas receiving less than 60% of normal, leading to reduced snowpack.

In Alberta, Southern Alberta experienced further deterioration, with expanded Severe Drought (D2) west of Red Deer, maintained Severe Drought (D2) along the southwest corner, and expanded Moderate Drought (D1) extending south toward Calgary, east toward Saskatchewan, and around the Medicine Hat–Brooks area. Extremely low January precipitation totals at Red Deer (11% of normal, 3rd driest) and Lethbridge (26% of normal, 5th driest) supported these changes. In Central Alberta, Moderate (D1) drought expanded south of Edmonton, while Northern Alberta saw expanded Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, maintained D1, and persistent pockets of Extreme Drought (D3), consistent with very low snow water equivalent in several basins.

In Saskatchewan, Southern Saskatchewan saw mixed changes, with reductions in Abnormally Dry (D0) across some south-central areas. Below normal precipitation across Central Saskatchewan led to the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) and the persistence of pockets of Extreme Drought (D3) around La Ronge. Northern Saskatchewan received closer to normal precipitation resulting in improvements to drought conditions and the removal of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) areas in the northwest.

In Manitoba, much of the south received less than 40% of normal precipitation and as a result saw the southwards expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. Central Manitoba also worsened, with Severe Drought (D2) expanded and Extreme Drought (D3) pocket in east-central areas maintained due to persisting dry conditions. Conditions deteriorated further in Northern Manitoba, where Moderate Drought (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3) expanded in the northwest due to dry conditions and limited snow accumulation.

At the end of the month, 77% of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3), including 62% of the region's agricultural landscape.

## Central Region (ON, QC)

Overall conditions were cooler across much of the southern portion of the region with warmer than normal conditions in the north. Most of Ontario received precipitation ranging from 40 to 150% of normal, although drier conditions persisted in parts of northwestern and southern Ontario. In Quebec, precipitation deficits were more pronounced, with southern Quebec through the Gaspé Peninsula receiving less than 85% of normal and parts of northern Quebec receiving less than 60% of normal. Despite some regions receiving slightly below normal precipitation through January, significant portions of Ontario and Quebec received enough precipitation to support small improvements in moisture availability. Much of Quebec remained drier despite seasonal cold limiting immediate impacts.

Northern Ontario saw notable improvements, including removal of Abnormally Dry (D0), slight reductions in Moderate Drought (D1), and removal of Severe Drought (D2) pockets, although some Severe (D2) and Extreme (D3) conditions were maintained near the Manitoba–Ontario border. Above normal precipitation across eastern and Central Ontario led to reduction in Severe Drought (D2).

These improvements were reflected in hydrologic conditions, with the lifting of the Level 3 Low Water Advisory on January 28, 2026, after conditions returned to normal. In Western and Southern Ontario, precipitation was enough to justify the removal of pockets of Severe Drought (D2), but not enough to fully alleviate dry conditions or low water conditions in the Grand River and Lower Thames watersheds and as such Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions remain. In Quebec, northern areas experienced reductions in Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2), while in southeastern Quebec a Severe Drought (D2) pocket was removed while the Gaspé Peninsula continues to experience Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions.

At the end of the month, 69% of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1) to (D3), including 95% of the region's agricultural landscape.

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

Overall conditions across the Atlantic Region were influenced by warmer temperatures and variable precipitation patterns. The Maritimes experienced seasonal temperatures, ranging from 0 to 2°C above normal, while Newfoundland and Labrador were warmer, with temperatures exceeding 3°C above normal. Precipitation was above normal across much of the region, with many areas receiving 85–150% of normal precipitation. However, notable exceptions included New Brunswick and western Prince Edward Island, where precipitation totals were below normal.

Drought conditions showed mixed changes across the Atlantic provinces. In New Brunswick, areas of Extreme Drought (D3) were maintained in three pockets along the northeast, while

Severe Drought (D2) slightly expanded, reflecting ongoing longer-term moisture deficits. Prince Edward Island experienced a worsening trend, with Severe Drought (D2) expanding eastward as dry conditions persisted, particularly across the western part of the island. In Nova Scotia, conditions improved in the southwest, where Severe Drought (D2) was reduced; however, the entire province remained classified as Moderate Drought (D1). In Newfoundland, drought conditions improved overall, with Moderate Drought (D1) reduced to the southern tip of the island and Abnormally Dry (D0) confined to southern areas and regions eastward around St. John's. In Labrador, drought extent contracted, with Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) reduced to north-central parts of the region, due to above normal precipitation across much of Labrador and improved moisture conditions.

At the end of the month, 60% of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1) to (D3), including 94% of the region's agricultural landscape.

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

Overall conditions across the Northern Region were near seasonal, with warmer temperatures in southern areas. Southern Yukon and parts of the Northwest Territories experienced above-normal temperatures, with southern Yukon recording temperatures 3°C above normal, while the remainder of the region observed near-normal winter temperatures. In Yukon, monthly mean temperatures were near normal in the north and southwest, with the rest of the territory up to 4°C above normal. Precipitation across much of the Yukon was normal to above normal, supporting winter moisture recharge, although localized deficits persisted near Burwash where below-normal precipitation was observed. These conditions supported gradual improvements in snow and soil moisture conditions in some areas, while longer-term drought remained in others.

Drought conditions showed modest improvements across both Yukon and the Northwest Territories, though areas of Severe drought (D2) persisted. In Yukon, southern and central areas experienced reductions in Moderate Drought (D1), now confined to southeastern to central portions of the territory following improved moisture conditions. In the Northwest Territories, Southern and Central NWT saw slight reductions in Severe Drought (D2) and reductions in D1; however, three pockets of Extreme Drought (D3) were maintained across south-central and southeastern areas, reflecting longer-term deficits. In Northern NWT, conditions improved with reductions in Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) drought conditions, although some pockets were maintained in the northernmost parts of the territory where recovery remains limited.

At the end of the month, 67% of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3).