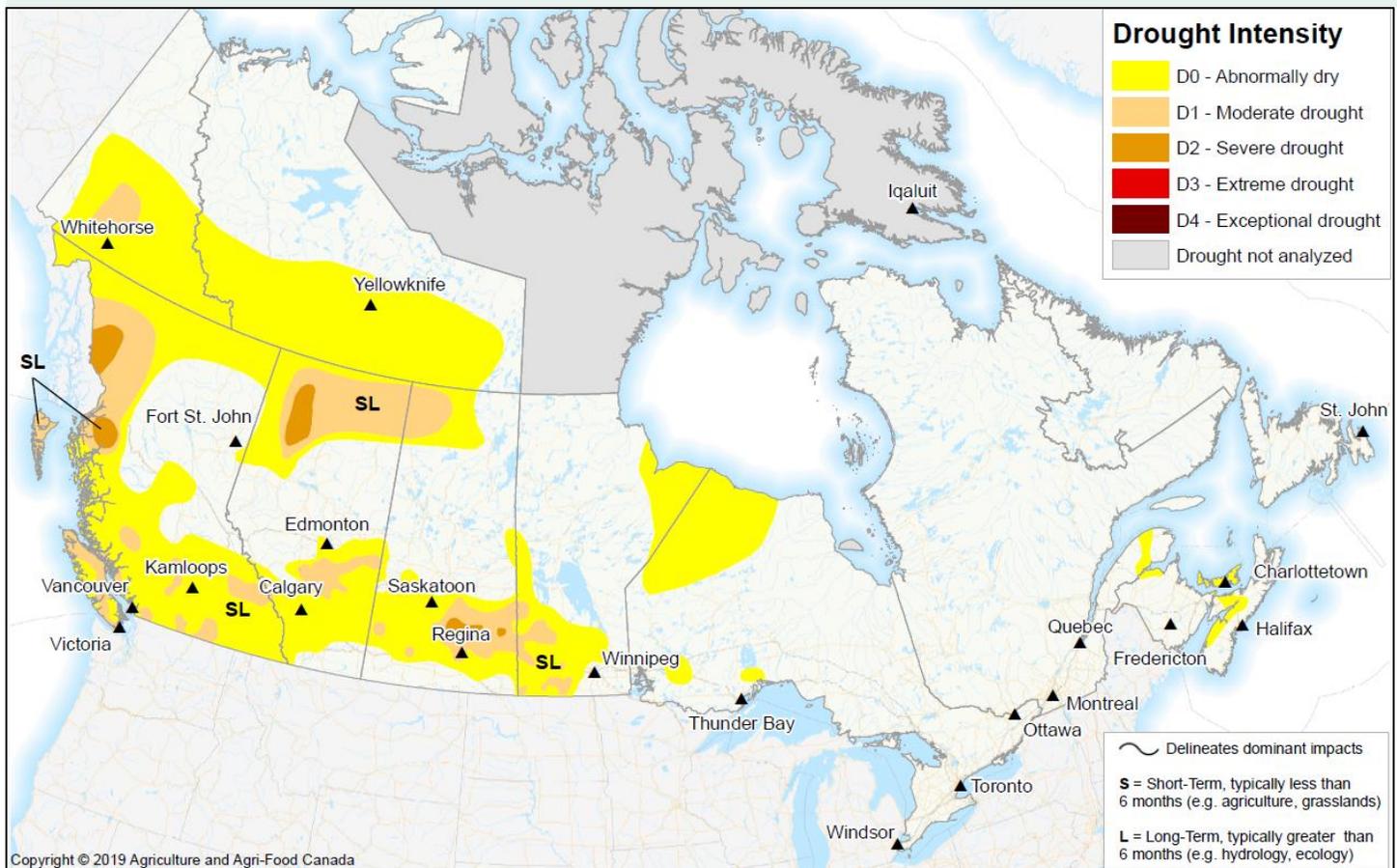


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of March 31, 2019



Drought conditions worsened across the country in March. Much of the country recorded warmer than normal temperatures and precipitation was below average. Snow melt began across much of Western Canada, and disappeared in areas of the southern Prairies with limited snowpack. Dryness in the coastal areas of the Pacific and Atlantic Regions resulted in heightened drought risk in these regions. The Prairie Region in particular experienced substantial precipitation deficits both long-term and short-term, leading to increased concern for drought as the growing season approaches. Above average precipitation in Central Canada provided relief to the Gaspé region of Quebec which has recovered from long-term drought. Dry conditions persisted in Northern Canada due to below average precipitation levels. The most significant drought concerns persisted in northwestern British Columbia, northwestern Alberta, and east-central Saskatchewan. Despite dry conditions over the past month, impacts



have been minimal given the time of year. Increased precipitation throughout April would elevate many drought regions and provide a good start to the growing season.

Pacific Region (BC)

Conditions in British Columbia deteriorated due to below average precipitation throughout March. At the end of the month, drought conditions existed in the southern interior, northwest, and coastal regions. Continued dryness across the province throughout March led to deteriorating soil moisture and poor snowpack, especially in the coastal and interior regions. By the end of the month, much of the province was enveloped by Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, except parts of the central interior which received adequate precipitation. Moderate Drought (D1) expanded along the coastal region due to enduring long-term precipitation deficits. Drought conditions in the northwestern half of the province remained relatively unchanged, as long-term precipitation deficits and inadequate short-term snowfall resulted in enduring drought. The area around Terrace continued to experience a Severe Drought (D2) pocket due to below average precipitation since the end of the growing season. Long-term drought indices suggested that dryness north of Grand Forks persisted. Given the time of year, drought impacts in British Columbia have been minimal. Poor streamflow in the coastal regions of the province heightened concerns for summer water supply.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Conditions across the Prairie Region deteriorated due to below average precipitation throughout March. At the end of the month, drought conditions existed in Peace Country, central Alberta, southeastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. Below average precipitation since the start of the winter season led to the expansion of the Severe Drought (D2) pocket south of High Level in Alberta. The Moderate Drought (D1) pocket surrounding Red Deer was significantly expanded due to enduring drought conditions including poor soil moisture and extremely poor precipitation throughout March. Poor streamflow and precipitation deficits led to the development of several D2 pockets across Southern Saskatchewan. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions along the southern border of Manitoba expanded, as much of the region received less than 40 percent of average precipitation over the past three months. Due to persistent below normal precipitation and lingering soil moisture deficits at the point of freeze-up in the fall, drought conditions remain present. Soil moisture and snowpack have been impacted as a result of drought. If snowpack accumulation or rainfall in the region does not increase throughout spring, the upcoming growing season will be impacted.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In Central Canada, conditions remained unchanged due to average precipitation. At the end of the month, abnormally Dry (D0) conditions continued to be a concern in northern Ontario and

the Gaspé region of Quebec. Over the past ninety days, precipitation deficits occurred in northern Ontario around Hudson Bay and the areas around Dryden and Nipigon. Long-term dryness in the Gaspé region of Quebec continued to improve, and all drought levels in the region were removed.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Atlantic Canada experienced a relatively dry month with no known impacts. March precipitation on Prince Edward Island was below 60 percent of average; thus, an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket developed. Below average precipitation since the start of the year led to the expansion of the D0 pocket into Nova Scotia as well. Despite short-term precipitation deficits in these areas, streamflow across the region was reported as above average at the end of the month.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Conditions in Northern Canada deteriorated throughout the month. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions existed in the North West Territories and Yukon. Precipitation deficits occurred in the majority of Yukon Territory and southern North West Territories throughout March. Satellite-derived data indicated that the area surrounding Carmacks had precipitation levels that were far below average, and streamflow was poor; thus, a D1 pocket was added. At the end of the month, streamflow across the region was reported as above average.