Water Security Agency

2025 Conditions at Freeze-up Report

Based on Conditions as of Nov. 27, 2025

Prepared by: Flow Forecasting & Operations Planning - Water Security Agency

Executive Summary

- This report summarizes conditions during the late fall/early winter period. Current conditions, in combination with the

winter snowpack, become the initial conditions for the spring snowmelt runoff.

- This report gives an early indication of areas that are more vulnerable to potentially above or below normal runoff during the spring period. It is not a spring runoff forecast because winter snow, which plays a big role in spring runoff, cannot be accurately predicted at this time.
- Near normal and even slightly above normal spring snowmelt runoff in spring 2025 resulted in most large water supply reservoirs being at or near normal levels throughout the year.
- In contrast to recent years, June, July and August brought above-normal precipitation to the southwest and east central areas, while below normal precipitation was received in west central, northern and southeastern areas.
- Two short snowstorms prior to freeze-up in November brought light to moderate snowfall across Saskatchewan, with heaviest accumulations near North Battleford, Melville and the southwest. This snowfall could result in either of two outcomes: 1) Insulating the soil and reducing frost penetration, increasing infiltration in the spring, which may reduce runoff, or 2) creating frozen topsoil due to partial melting and refreezing, reducing infiltration and increasing runoff.
- At freeze-up, soil moisture levels are near adequate in eastern areas of the grain belt, while western areas and the north are exhibiting soil moisture deficits.
- Most of the province is at moderate to high risk of seeing negative impacts to surface and shallow groundwater supplies next year in 2026 as a result of drought. West central and east central Saskatchewan are at the highest risk.
- Most larger water supply reservoirs across southern and central Saskatchewan are at near normal elevations for this time of year.
- At this time, there are no areas where WSA believes that there is a heightened risk of above normal spring runoff in 2026.
- Lakes and reservoirs in the Qu'Appelle, Souris and Saskatchewan River basins are expected to be at or near normal levels prior to the spring runoff in 2026.
- Inflows to Lake Diefenbaker are expected to remain near normal throughout the winter. The Lake Diefenbaker outflow has been increased as per normal winter operations to achieve a target elevation of 551.5 m, the middle of the normal drawdown range prior spring runoff.
- Current long-range forecasts and climate indices suggest slightly above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures through the winter months over much of the province.
- La Niña conditions continued over the past month and are expected to persist into the winter. A long term La Niña pattern typically means a cooler and wetter winter for Saskatchewan.
- The preliminary Spring Runoff Outlook for 2026 will be issued in early February.

Cover Photo: Torch River near Love, Nov. 27, 2025
(Shawn Salm, Water Security Agency)

Precipitation and Conditions Prior To Freeze-Up

Summary:

- Spring runoff was mostly near normal to slightly above normal, with localized above normal peaks within the Quill Lakes-Yorkton area, where several creeks approached a 1-in-10 response.
- Summer precipitation ranged from moderately high to very high in southwest areas to moderately low to below normal in west-central, northern and southeast regions.
- Fall precipitation ranged from well below normal across southeast, southwest and some northern areas of Saskatchewan to above normal in west central areas. Other areas of the province received near normal precipitation.
- Two short November snowstorms brought light to moderate snowfall across Saskatchewan, with heaviest accumulations near North Battleford, Melville and the southwest.

2025 Spring Runoff Summary

The 2025 spring runoff across the province ranged from near normal to slightly above normal, with select locations exhibiting higher than normal runoff. Runoff began in the southwest in early March and advanced into the central and southeastern regions by early April. While most creeks received near-normal runoff in the central and southeastern parts of the province, some locations—such as Brightwater Creek—approached a 1-in-10 runoff response from the melt. Due to the heavy snowfall received in mid-April across the area extending from the Quill lakes through Yorkton to the Manitoba border, several stations recorded above-normal peak flows. Runoff responses in this zone ranged from approximately 1-in-2 to 1-in-10. Several creeks—including Ironspring Creek, Ranch Creek, those in the Quill lakes area, and Smith Creek and Cutarm Creek near the Manitoba border—recorded peak runoff consistent with roughly a 1-in-10-year event.

2025 Summer Precipitation Summary

As shown in Figure 1, precipitation received throughout the summer varied significantly across the province. In contrast with recent years, the southwest received the highest per cent of normal precipitation throughout the summer of any area in the province, seeing moderately high (80th to 90th percentile) precipitation accumulations in most areas, with some pockets receiving very high (90th to 95th percentile) amounts. The southeast, including the Souris River Basin, received below normal accumulations (20th to 40th percentile) and the west central and far northern areas received very low to below normal accumulations (5th to 40th percentile). Other areas of the province, including east central and south-central areas, received near normal precipitation accumulations during the summer.

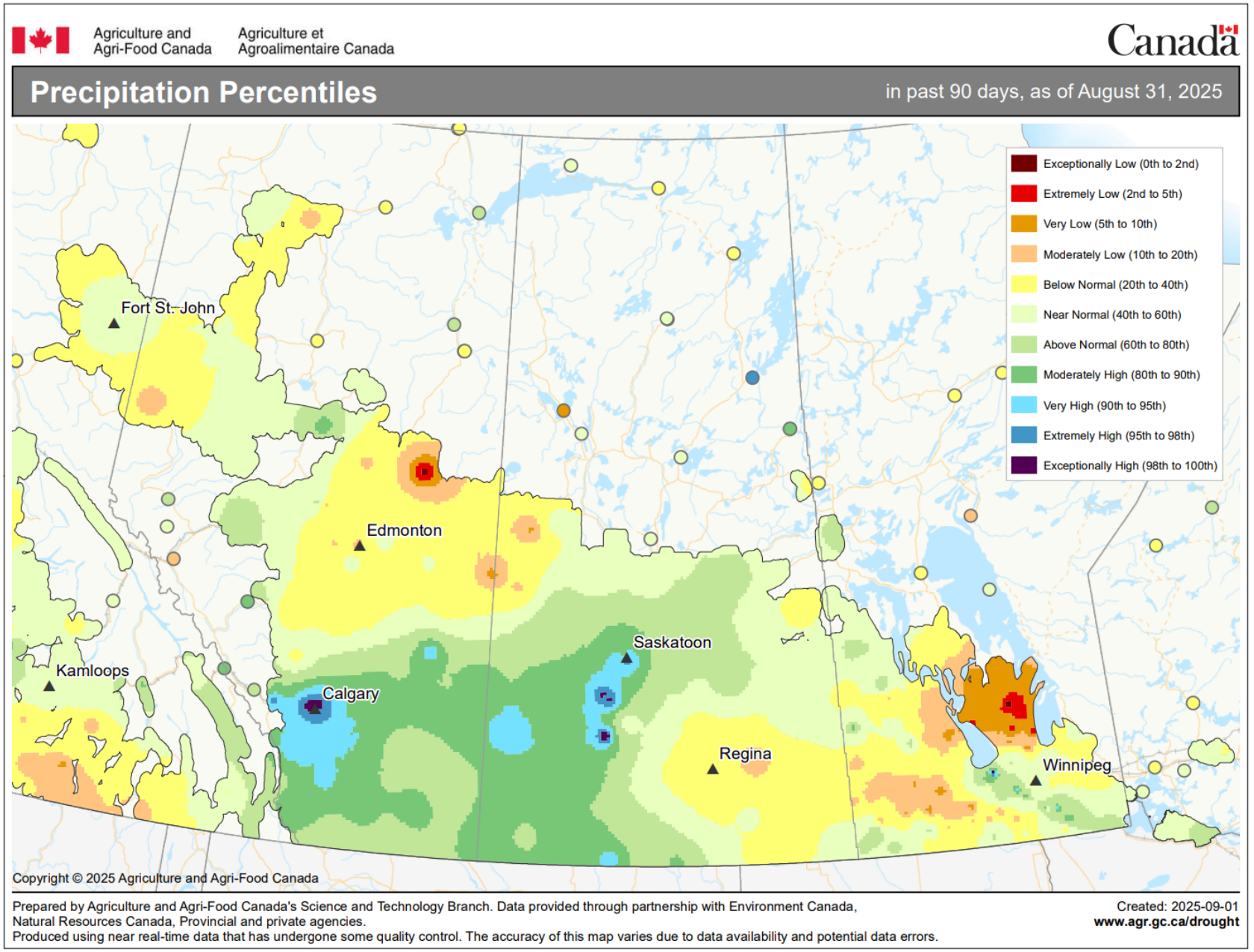

Figure 1: June 3 to Aug. 31, 2025 Precipitation Compared to Historic
(Map Courtesy of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

2025 Fall Precipitation Summary

Figure 2 shows rainfall percentages compared to normal across the province from September 26 to November 24, 2025, which is the period approximately 60 days before freeze-up. During this time, west central, central and east central areas received the highest precipitation amounts, with the area including Meadow Lake receiving up to 200 per cent of normal precipitation for that time of year. In contrast, the southwest, southeast and northeast areas of the province received lower than normal precipitation during this time.

Two short snowstorms occurred in November prior to freeze-up this year. The first one, from November 7 to 8, brought light to moderate snowfall (snow depth of 2 to 14 cm) across central and eastern parts of the province, as shown in Figure 3. The heaviest snowfall was near North Battleford and Melville. The second event, which occurred November 24 to 25, resulted in additional light to moderate snowfall (snow depth of 2-14 cm), mainly across southern Saskatchewan, as shown in Figure 4. The greatest accumulation was in the southwestern corner of the province. The impact of this snowfall on soil moisture and runoff potential depends on winter conditions. If significant snow cover accumulates and stays, it can insulate the soil, which reduces frost penetration and promotes spring infiltration, which benefits soil moisture levels; however, if temperatures rise and snow partially melts, it could create a frozen soil layer, reducing spring infiltration and increasing runoff.

Red Deer River near Steen, Nov. 19, 2025
(Dylan McDonald, Water Security Agency)

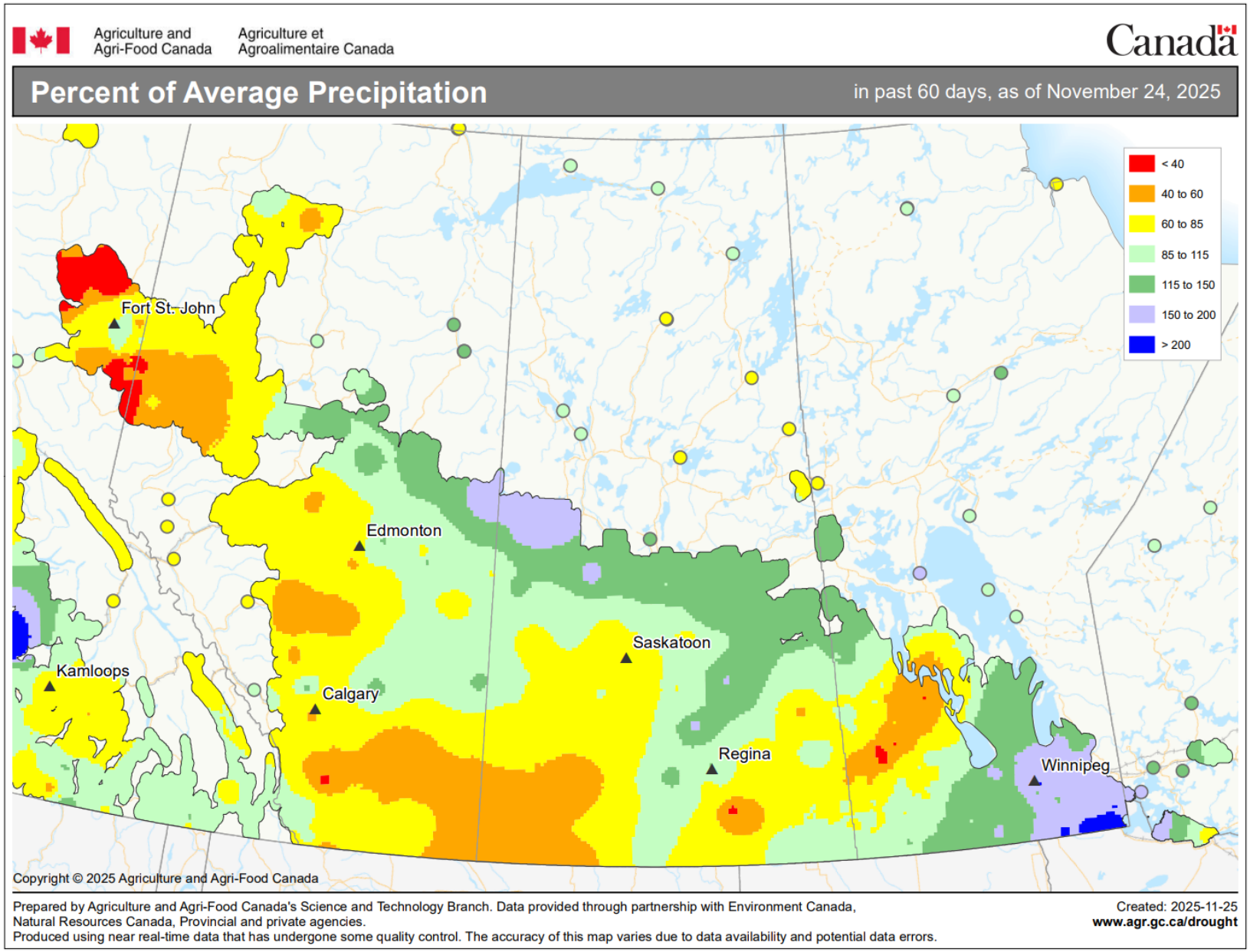

Figure 2: Per cent of Average Precipitation from Sept. 26 to Nov. 24, 2025
(Map Courtesy of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

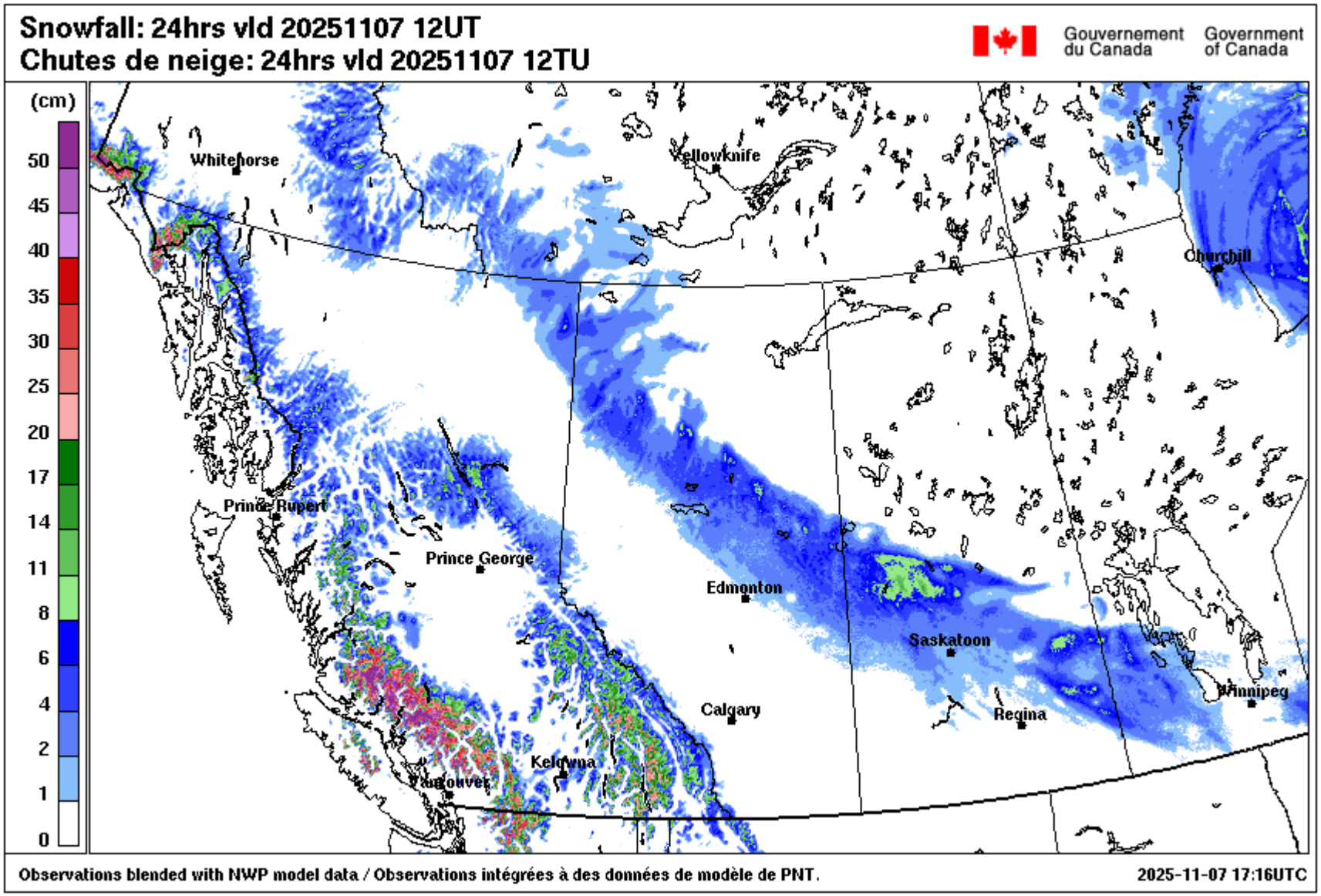

Figure 3: Snowfall Received on Nov. 7, 2025
(Map Courtesy of Environment and Climate Change Canada)

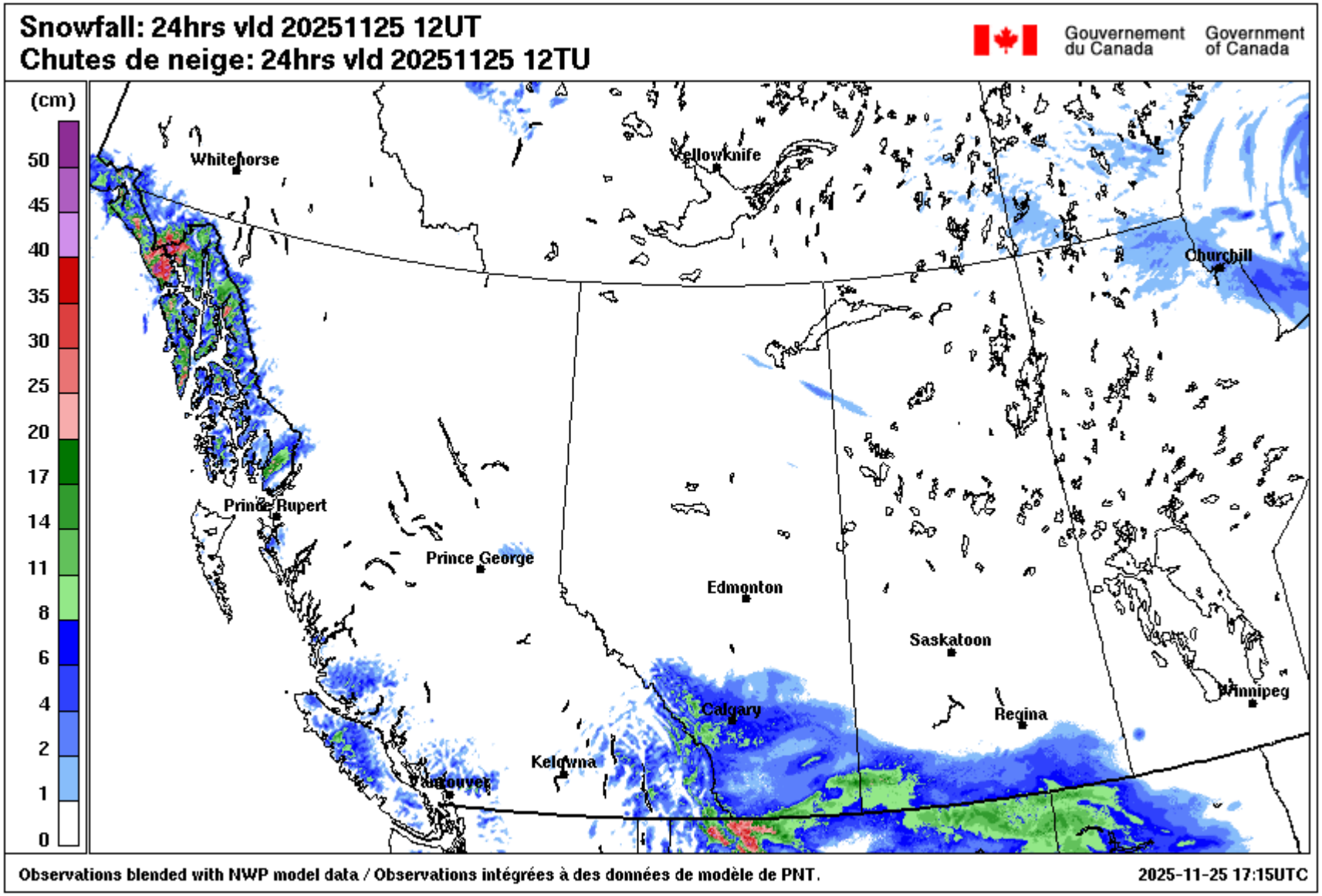

Figure 4: Snowfall Received on Nov. 7, 2025
(Map Courtesy of Environment and Climate Change Canada)

Soil Moisture Conditions

Summary:

- Near the end of October, there was adequate to surplus soil moisture in eastern areas of the grain belt.
- Soils are driest in western areas of the province, particularly in west-central Saskatchewan, as well as the far north.

Figure 5 shows topsoil moisture conditions across the agricultural region of the province at the time of the final crop report issued for the period ending October 20, 2025. At that time, topsoil moisture levels in the province varied but, in general, the eastern half of the province had sufficient soil moisture levels and the western half had drier soil conditions. Short to very short moisture conditions (orange) were reported in areas near the Alberta border including near Maple Creek, Swift Current, Kindersley and Lloydminster. Surplus soil moisture is noted near Yorkton, Wynyard and Humboldt. Other agricultural areas of the province had adequate soil moisture. Significant rainfall and snow are needed in the coming months to replenish soil moisture levels for next spring, especially in western regions.

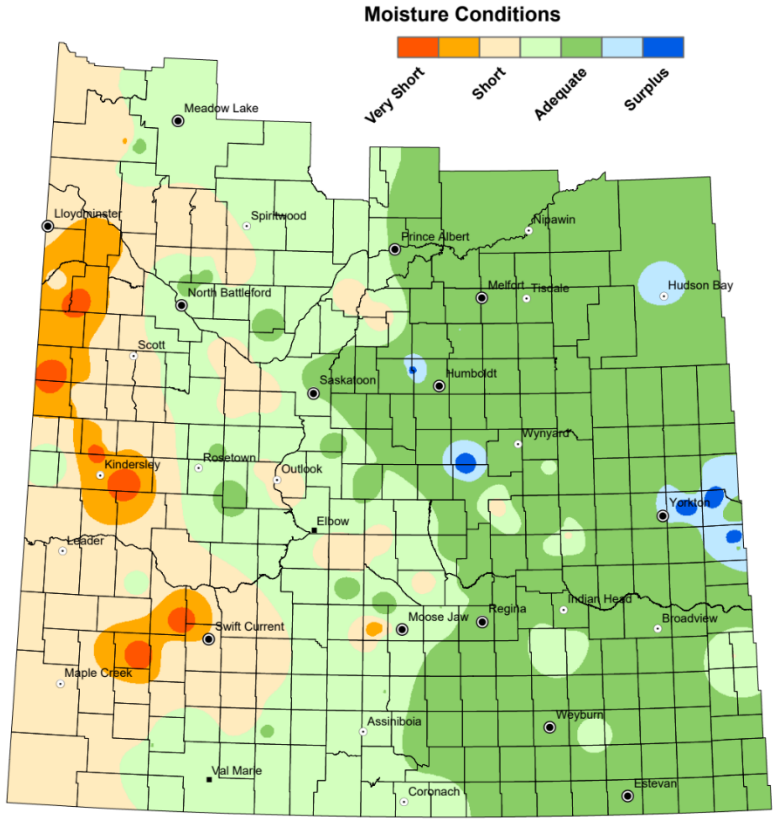

Figure 5: Oct. 20, 2025
Cropland Topsoil Moisture Conditions
(Map Courtesy of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture)

Additionally, The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) produces soil moisture products using data from the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellite mission (Figure 6). This map shows the root zone (top 1 metre) soil moisture percentile across the province as of Nov. 24, 2025. Root zone soil moisture is lowest in the west central area of the province and the far north, with these areas continuing to experience some of the driest conditions on record at the time of freeze-up. Areas south of Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Regina to the international border had near normal soil moisture at freeze-up. Most other parts of the province have root zone soil moisture levels between the 10th and 30th percentiles.

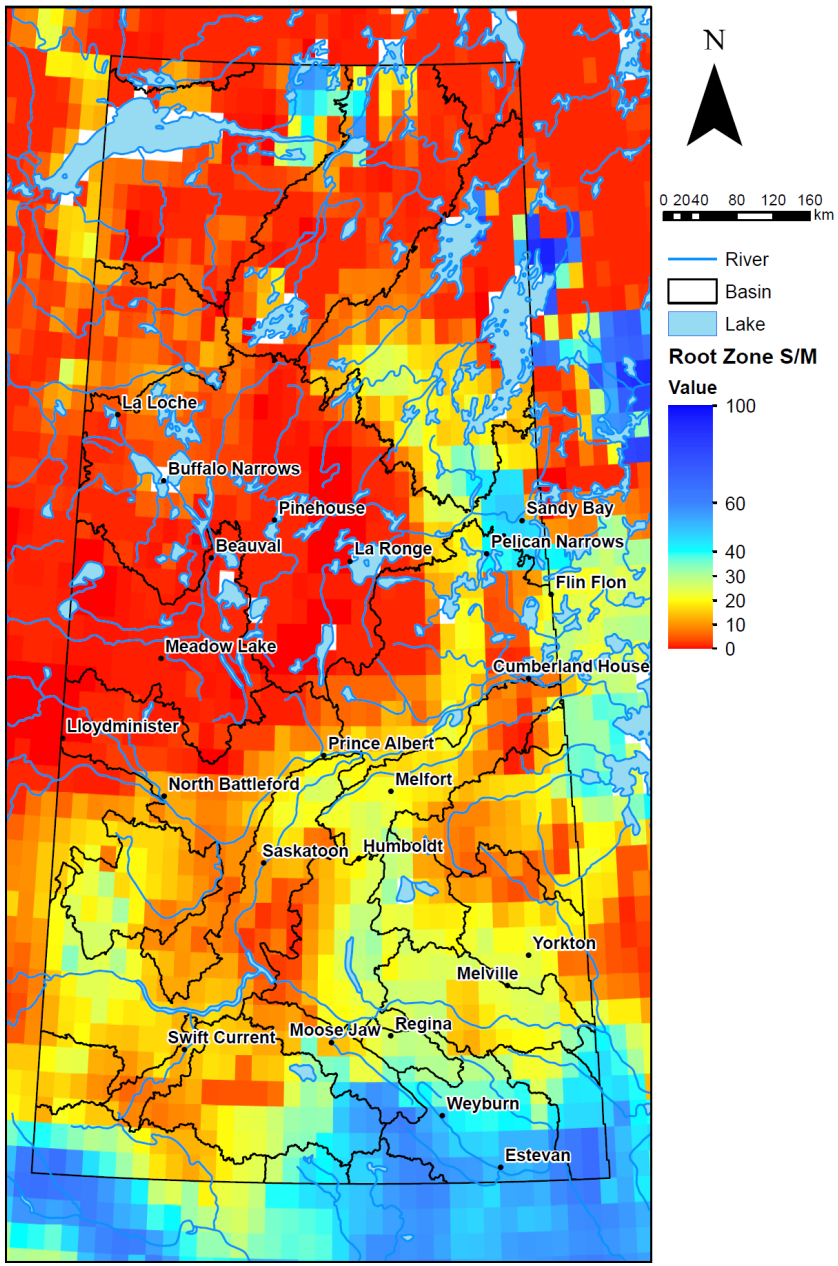

Figure 66: Nov. 24, 2025 GRACE Root Zone Soil Moisture Percentile from GRACE satellite (Map Courtesy of NASA)

Drought Risk

Summary:

- Most major water supply reservoirs are at or near normal levels for this time of year.
- At the end of October, moderate to severe agricultural drought conditions were observed in most areas of the north, with pockets of extreme drought noted near Lloydminster and La Ronge.
- Mild to moderate drought conditions were seen across southern Saskatchewan at the end of October.

WSA uses two different products to help identify areas at risk for drought. The first is the Canadian Drought Monitor Map from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Figure 7). This product defines drought conditions based on multiple data sources, including indicators such as temperature and precipitation. The categories in this product range from abnormally dry, which signifies conditions that historically occur about once every three years, to exceptional drought conditions, which historically occur only about once every 50 years. This product is not focused on the stream flows and water supply; therefore, Saskatchewan developed the Hydrological Drought Map.

The Hydrological Drought Map is the second product used to help identify risk of drought in the province (Figure 9). This product is an indicator of the water supply conditions across the province. It uses monthly stream flow averages, monthly reservoir elevation averages and the six-month Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) to define hydrological drought in the province. The categories in this product range from near normal and above to extreme and exceptional drought.

The Canadian Drought Monitor Map for October 31 is shown in Figure 7. This map shows that drought has increased across south-central and southwest areas where abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions are noted. Conditions have slightly improved in the east-central and southeast ranging from abnormally dry to no drought.

Drought also worsened slightly across northern Saskatchewan with more areas moving into the severe drought category. Pockets including Lloydminster and La Ronge were classified as being in extreme drought at the end of October.

The Hydrological Drought Map for October 2025 is shown in Figure 8. This map shows that all of northern Saskatchewan was experiencing moderate to extreme hydrological drought conditions at the end of October. The remainder of the province was classified as being in mild hydrological drought, except for the South Saskatchewan River Basin which is classified as being in moderate hydrological drought. Compared with October 2024, hydrological drought increased over the past year in the North Saskatchewan River, Beaver River, Churchill River and Black Lake basins, while drought impacts have lessened in the Carrot River and Lake Winnipegosis basins.

The six-month SPEI map is shown in Figure 9. SPEI is a normalized drought index that uses climate data to identify areas where drought conditions exist. The SPEI values are a relative measure of surface water surplus (positive values) or deficit (negative values) in an area. The values take the current precipitation minus the potential evapotranspiration and compare it to the average value at a location. The result is normalized, so the higher the negative number, the drier the conditions are. This map shows that, over the past six months, conditions have generally been drier than normal across most of southeastern Saskatchewan, west central Saskatchewan, across most of the Churchill River Basin and in the east near Hudson Bay.

Referencing both the Canadian Drought Map and the Hydrological Drought Map, drought conditions have worsened since the end of September across much of the south while improving in west central and east central areas. With the proactive approach taken to retain as much water as possible, the lakes and reservoirs across the province generally remain near normal levels for this time of year.

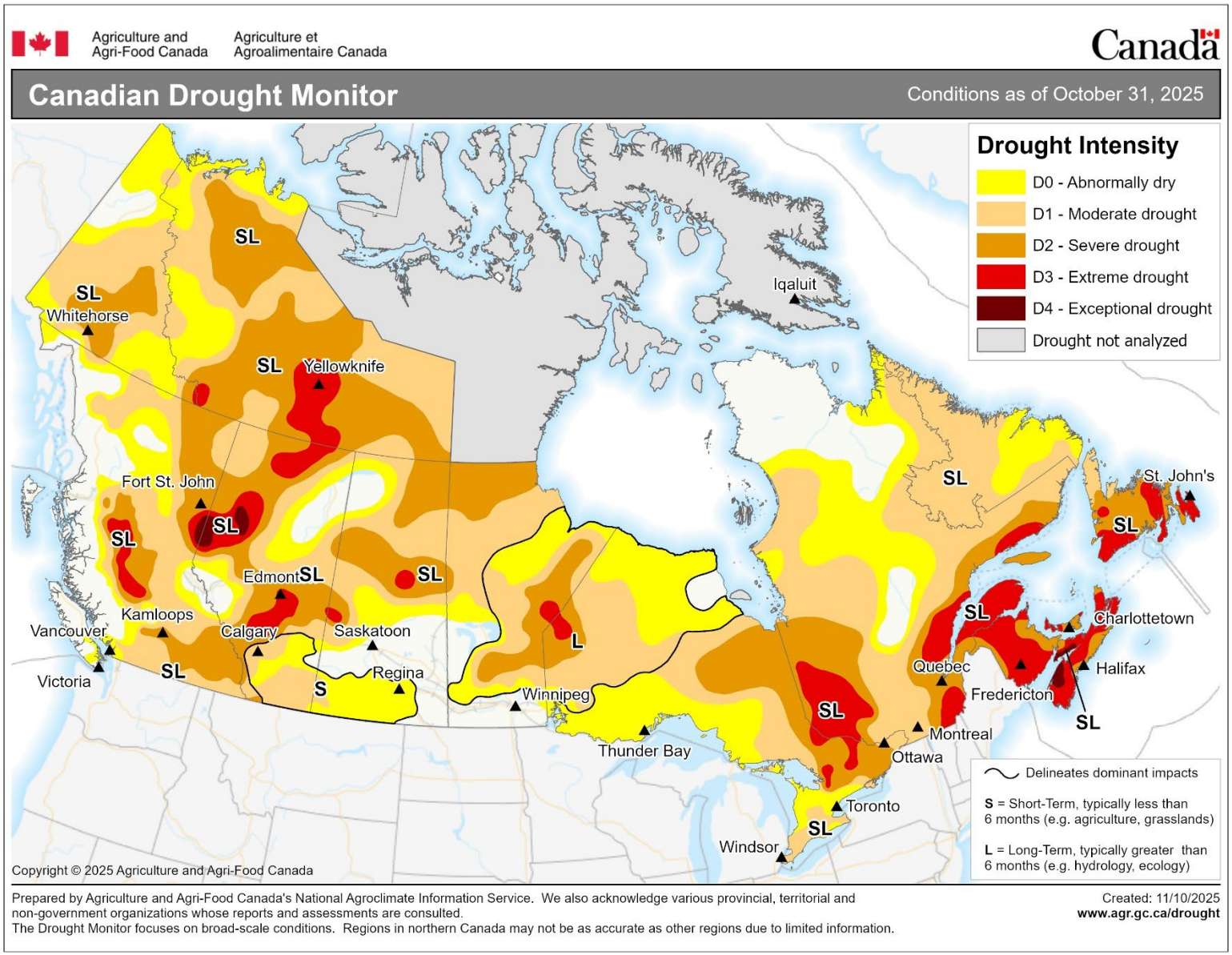

Figure 7: Canadian Drought Monitor – Oct. 31, 2025
(Map courtesy of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

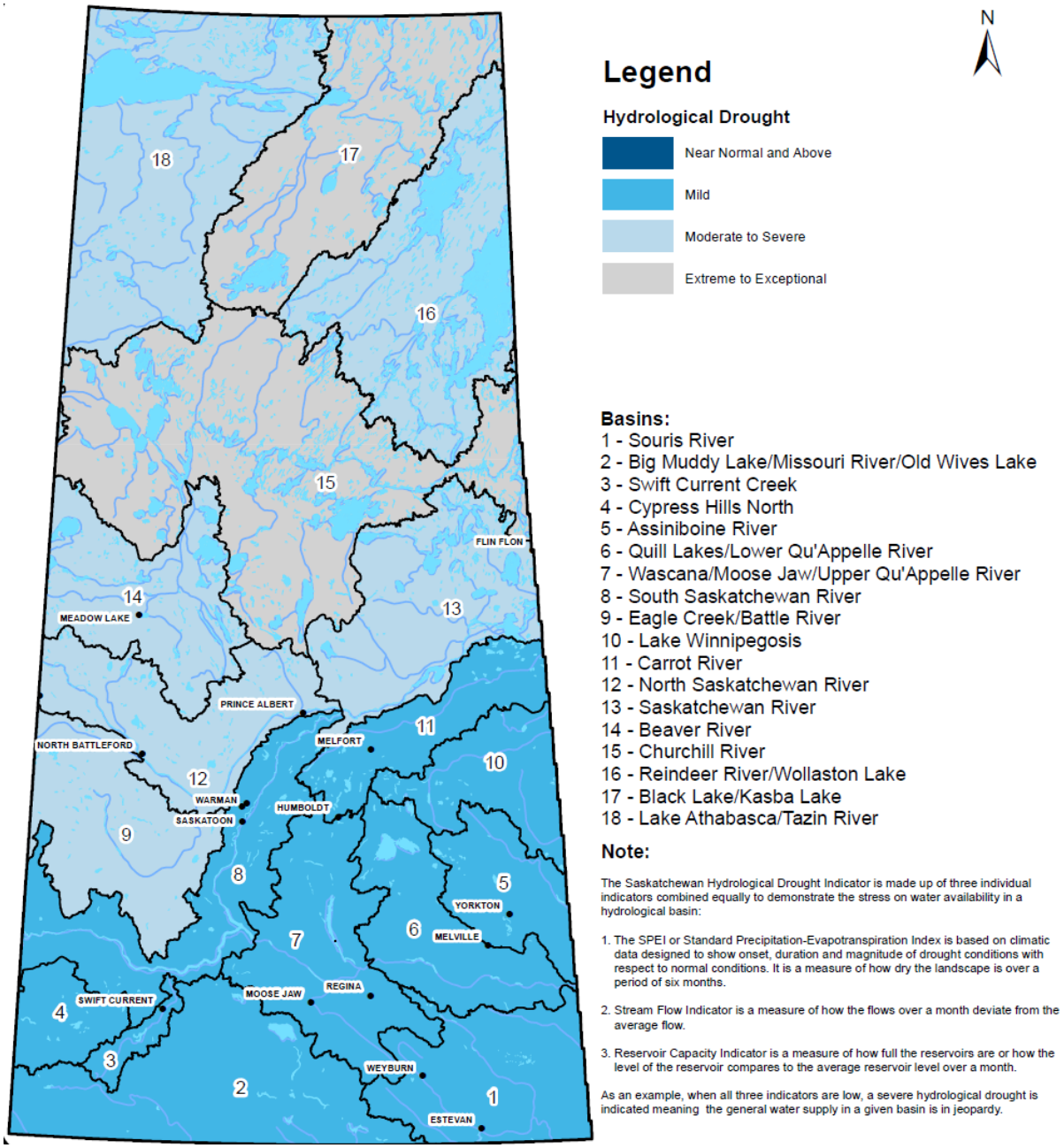

Figure 8: Hydrological Drought Map for October 2025

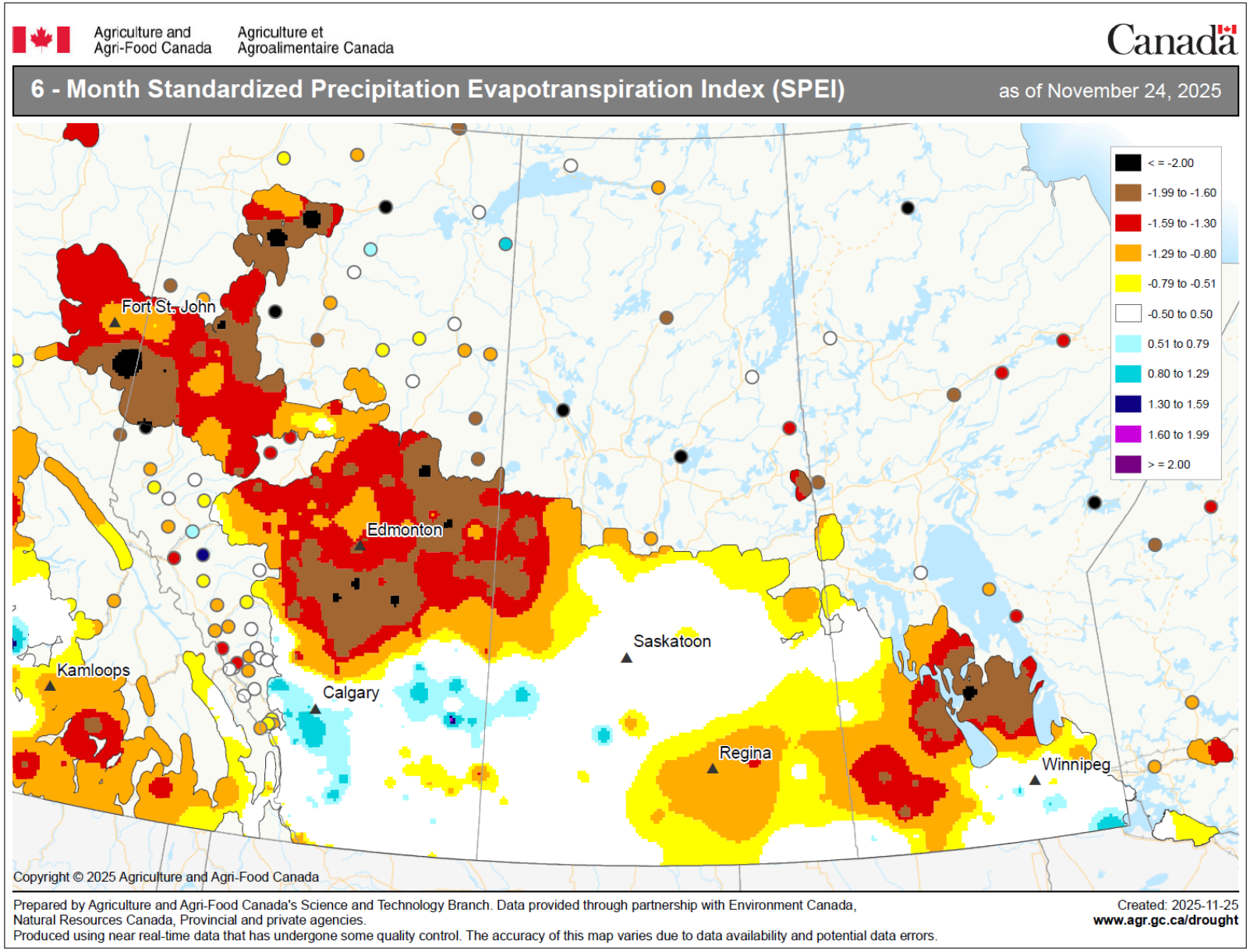

Figure 9: 6-month Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) for Nov. 24, 2025
(Map courtesy of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

Current Water Supply Conditions

Summary:

- 2025 was generally drier than normal across the province.
- For 2026, most of the province is at moderate to high risk of seeing negative impacts to surface and shallow groundwater supplies next year. West-central and east-central Saskatchewan are at the highest risk.

Figure 10 shows the Drought Risk Map developed for 2026. This map was developed based on current conditions and highlights the risk to surface water and shallow groundwater supplies in 2026. It is important to note that only local runoff is considered in the creation of this map, not the major river systems, such as the Saskatchewan River system. Precipitation events in neighbouring provinces can contribute greatly to the water we get in Saskatchewan, but this map only considers our Saskatchewan datasets.

Drier than normal conditions observed through 2025 have resulted in moderate to high risks across much of the province, with areas around Lloydminster and La Ronge being classified as at extreme risk of drought. The highest areas of risk are concentrated in the central, east-central, west-central and far northern regions. In areas where the risk is high or extreme, an above-normal snowpack will be needed for a near-normal runoff response to result.

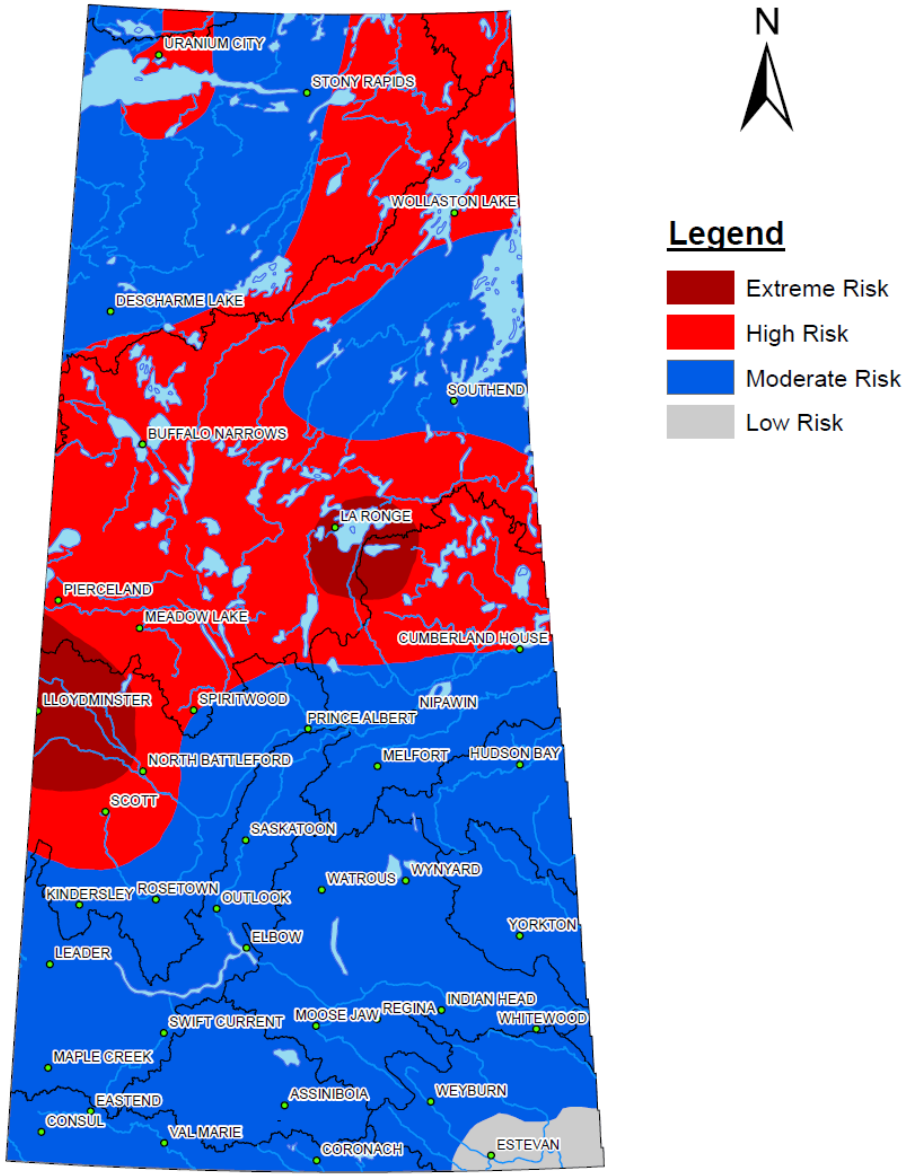

Figure 10: 2026 Drought Risk Map

Fall Streamflow

Summary:

- Generally, streamflows were below to well below normal across the province at freeze-up with only a few localized areas showing above normal flows.

Fall streamflow is an indication of conditions within a basin prior to freeze-up. Most creeks in southern Saskatchewan are ephemeral, typically only flowing for a short duration during the spring freshet or during periods of above normal rainfall; however, when conditions are wet, these creeks can flow at elevated rates over extended durations as water stored within the basin is slowly released.

Table 1 provides a summary of the preliminary flow, rank and historical statistics for select streamflow gauges across the province for Oct. 31, 2025. October 31 is used for this table as many of these streamflow gauges are only operated seasonally. Table 1 shows that, as of October 31, freeze-up flows across most of the province ranged, generally, from below normal to well below normal. There were a few notable exceptions, such as Ironspring Creek near Watson (05MA012) and several tributaries in the Quill Lakes, Assiniboine River, and Red Deer River basins, where late-season localized rainfall pushed flows to well above normal—and in some cases to record highs. Overall, despite regional variation, much of the province entered freeze-up with below-normal flows. However, a few localized areas experienced above-normal flows, indicating higher runoff potential for next spring.

Pre-Spring Runoff Lake Level Projections

Summary:

- Lakes and reservoirs in the Qu'Appelle, Souris and Saskatchewan River basins are expected to be at or near normal levels prior to the spring runoff in 2026.

Table 2 shows the current lake levels on the Qu'Appelle River and their projected March 1, 2026 levels. All lakes on the Qu'Appelle River system are expected to be near their normal levels on March 1, 2026.

In the Souris River Basin, Rafferty Reservoir is below the February 1 target elevation 549.5 m. There is no release from Rafferty Reservoir at this time. A release from Grant Devine reservoir is ongoing to draw the level down to 561.0 m by February 1. Beginning on Feb. 1, 2026, spring runoff forecasts for the Souris River Basin will be prepared in consultation with our United States partners on a semi-monthly basis. The reservoirs may be drawn down further in advance of spring runoff if warranted, in accordance with the 1989 Canada-US Agreement on Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin.

With freeze-up well underway, flows on the North Saskatchewan River are temporarily below median levels for this time of year. Once the river is fully frozen, flows are expected to increase back near median. On the South Saskatchewan River, inflows to Lake Diefenbaker are expected to be near normal through the winter. The current overwinter operating plan is to bring Lake Diefenbaker to a target elevation of 551.5 m, which is the middle of the normal drawdown range, prior to the start of the prairie runoff (which typically occurs mid to late March). To minimize the risk of a low water year on Lake Diefenbaker, the target elevation will be adjusted depending on how the snowpack materializes in the mountains and across the prairies in Alberta and Saskatchewan throughout the winter.

The Cumberland Lake water level has been below normal throughout the year due to the below normal flows throughout the Saskatchewan River Basin in 2025. After freeze-up is complete, water levels are expected to start rising due to backwater effects from ice formation in the river channel as well as increased inflows driven by higher hydroelectric power generation releases.

The Quill lakes are at the same elevation as they were last year at this time and are expected to see small gains over the winter due to snow accumulation and potential groundwater inflows. Fishing Lake remained near median levels from June 1 until freeze-up and is lower than it was at this time last year.

In other closed or semi-closed basin lakes, many of which are not gauged and not included in the table below, water levels have dropped and are expected to remain relatively steady going into the 2026 spring runoff.

Table 1: Fall Streamflow Conditions (Oct. 31, 2025)

Station	2025 Flow (m^3/s)	2025 Rank	Years of Record	Lower Quartile Flow (m^3/s)	Median Flow (m^3/s)	Upper Quartile Flow (m^3/s)	Historical Rankings (October 31 highest flows)				
							1	2	3	4	5
ASSINIBOINE RIVER AT KAMSACK	0.64	41	81	0.27	0.64	1.76	2010	2016	2014	1954	1995
BALLANTYNE RIVER ABOVE BALLANTYNE BAY	1.35	48	48	3.47	6.36	8.54	2016	1970	1979	2012	1993
BATTLE CREEK AT ALBERTA BOUNDARY	0.17	34	50	0.15	0.21	0.26	2016	2010	2011	2012	1993
BATTLE RIVER NEAR THE SASKATCHEWAN	0.88	41	46	1.14	1.95	3.00	1980	1982	1981	1986	2020
BEAVER RIVER BELOW WATERHEN RIVER	13.07	45	48	27.28	41.00	67.05	2005	1973	1997	2017	1974
BIRCH CREEK NEAR ELFROS	0.00	61	60	0.00	0.00	0.00	2016	2010	2006	1995	2005
BOGGY CREEK NEAR LUMSDEN	0.00	70	70	0.00	0.01	0.01	2016	2009	2010	1956	2019
CANOE RIVER NEAR BEAUVAL	1.91	47	51	7.65	11.50	17.45	1973	2005	1997	1995	2012
CARROT RIVER NEAR TURNBERRY	18.66	12	59	5.26	8.30	14.70	2016	2006	2005	2010	1978
CHURCHILL RIVER ABOVE OTTER RAPIDS	112.76	59	61	199.00	306.00	409.00	2020	1974	2005	1997	2017
CHURCHILL RIVER NEAR PATUANAK	37.21	39	41	89.80	140.00	181.00	1974	2020	2017	1975	2019
CUTARM CREEK NEAR SPY HILL	0.14	30	81	0.03	0.11	0.19	2016	2010	2014	1953	1954
DORE RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH	0.17	53	53	1.03	2.02	5.38	2017	1974	2007	1975	2018
FRENCHMAN RIVER AT INTERNATIONAL	0.34	36	106	0.04	0.23	0.47	2016	2014	2007	1997	2010
HAULTAIN RIVER ABOVE NORBERT RIVER	9.91	48	55	11.90	16.90	24.05	2016	2012	1978	1997	1979
IRONSPRING CREEK NEAR WATSON	3.40	1	62	0.00	0.01	0.04	2025	2016	2006	2010	2014
LANIGAN CREEK ABOVE BOULDER LAKE	0.06	15	67	0.00	0.00	0.02	2010	2015	2016	2006	2005
LIGHTNING CREEK NEAR CARNDUFF	0.20	3	51	0.00	0.00	0.01	1975	2014	2025	2016	1985
LONG CREEK NEAR NOONAN	0.35	3	66	0.00	0.01	0.04	2013	2011	2025	2025	2014
MOOSE JAW RIVER NEAR BURDICK	0.33	3	66	0.00	0.01	0.04	2013	2011	2025	2025	2014
MOOSE MOUNTAIN CREEK ABOVE GRANT	0.35	4	66	0.00	0.01	0.04	2013	2011	2025	2025	2014
NOTUKEU CREEK NEAR VANGUARD	0.33	4	66	0.00	0.01	0.04	2013	2011	2025	2025	2014
PIPESTONE CREEK ABOVE MOOSOMIN LAKE	0.03	53	72	0.03	0.09	0.25	2016	1959	1993	1976	1954
QUAPPELLE RIVER NEAR WELBY	0.27	9	33	0.01	0.06	0.27	2014	2010	2011	2013	2016
RED DEER RIVER NEAR ERWOOD	0.03	55	76	0.02	0.07	0.13	2016	2011	1963	1916	1965
REINDEER RIVER ABOVE DEVIL RAPIDS	0.00	27	51	0.00	0.00	0.17	2014	2011	2010	2016	2001
STURGEON-WEIR RIVER AT LEAF RAPIDS	7.97	23	63	3.62	5.83	10.16	2014	2010	2011	2016	1954
STURGEON RIVER NEAR PRINCE ALBERT	9.83	15	71	1.94	4.34	7.26	2016	2010	1954	1970	2006
SWAN RIVER NEAR NORQUAY	77.92	39	40	249.00	343.50	429.50	1997	2020	2009	1987	1992
SWIFT CURRENT CREEK BELOW ROCK CREEK	21.12	41	47	29.30	44.20	53.70	2005	2020	1974	1983	2016

Station	2025 Flow (m^3/s)	2025 Rank	Years of Record	Lower Quartile Flow (m^3/s)	Median Flow (m^3/s)	Upper Quartile Flow (m^3/s)	Historical Rankings (October 31 highest flows)				
							1	2	3	4	5
TORCH RIVER NEAR LOVE	0.13	44	48	0.21	0.45	2.16	2010	2016	2005	2015	2012
WATHAMAN RIVER BELOW WATHAMAN LAKE	1.31	33	47	1.18	2.16	3.47	2016	1970	2010	1993	2009
WHEELER RIVER BELOW RUSSELL LAKE	0.46	23	69	0.25	0.34	0.52	2016	1993	2015	2014	2013
WHITESAND RIVER NEAR CANORA	4.40	39	66	3.26	4.73	7.30	2016	2005	1954	2015	2004
WOOD RIVER NEAR LAFLECHE	49.06	34	53	41.80	59.50	83.50	1997	2005	1978	2020	1976
YELLOW GRASS DITCH NEAR YELLOW GRASS	11.61	46	51	14.00	16.90	20.25	1976	2020	1997	1978	1979
YORKTON CREEK NEAR EBENEZER	1.29	10	76	0.00	0.18	0.62	2016	2010	2014	1995	1954

Table 2: Nov. 1, 2025 Observed Levels and Projections for March 1, 2026

Lake	**Nov. 1, 2025**			**March 1, 2026**		
	Observed 2025 (masl)	Median (masl)	Departure from Median (m)	Projected 2026 (masl)	Median (masl)	Departure from Median (m)
Buffalo Pound	509.35	509.38	-0.03	509.30	509.30	0.00
Last Mountain	489.92	489.88	0.04	489.88	489.90	-0.02
Echo-Pasqua	478.49	478.56	-0.07	478.42	478.50	-0.08
Mission-Katepwa	478.31	478.35	-0.04	478.20	478.27	-0.07
Crooked	450.86	451.07	-0.21	450.60	450.80	-0.20
Round	441.89	441.83	0.06	441.75	441.55	0.20
Quill lakes	519.45	515.00	4.45	519.40	515.00	4.40
Fishing	529.85	529.00	0.85	529.89	529.00	0.89

Climatic Conditions and Long-Range Weather Forecasts

Summary:

- Long-range forecasts are predicting above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures over the next three months.
- La Niña is expected to continue into the winter and is normally associated with cooler and wetter conditions.

Large Scale Climate Influences

The hydroclimate of Saskatchewan is heavily influenced by varying, recurring large-scale climate patterns such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), Pacific North American mode (PNA), and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). These large-scale climatic influences can provide insight but should be considered within the context of past experiences rather than a forecast of upcoming conditions.

PDO

The Pacific Decadal Oscillation is an index of sea surface temperatures over the northern portion of the Pacific Ocean. This index shifts from warm (positive) to cool (negative) phases lasting about 20 to 35 years. During negative phases, Saskatchewan typically experiences above normal snowfall and consequently experiences larger spring runoff events. Conversely, we tend to see lower than normal snowfall when the PDO is in its positive phase. The PDO signal has been negative since January 2020. The PDO is expected to remain in the negative phase throughout the winter.

PNA

The Pacific North American Pattern is one of the most prominent modes of low-frequency variability in the Northern Hemisphere extratropics and is associated with fluctuations in the strength and location of the jet stream. During the positive phase, warmer and drier conditions typically persist over western North America. Cooler and wetter temperatures are more likely when the PNA is in the negative phase. The PNA is difficult to forecast beyond one month. The PNA is currently in the negative phase.

ENSO

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a naturally occurring phenomenon that involves fluctuating Pacific Ocean temperatures near the equator. During El Niño (warm phase) years, Saskatchewan typically experiences warmer and drier winters. The opposite generally occurs during La Niña (cool phase) years; conditions tend to be cooler and wetter. Over the past month, La Niña conditions continued, as indicated by the strengthening of below-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean . Based on model outputs, La Niña is favoured to continue into the Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-March 2026 (61 per cent chance).

Seasonal Outlooks

The US National Weather Service hosts a webpage with seasonal forecasts from six models, including two Environment and Climate Change Canada models, and produces multi-model ensemble products. Most of these models are forecasting above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures across Saskatchewan between Dec. 1, 2025 and Feb. 28, 2026. Precipitation is expected to vary farthest from normal across the south, and temperatures are expected to be below normal throughout most of the province this winter. Three-month spatial anomalies maps for precipitation (Figure 11) and temperature (Figure 12) covering the Dec. 1, 2025 to Feb. 28, 2026 forecast period are provided.

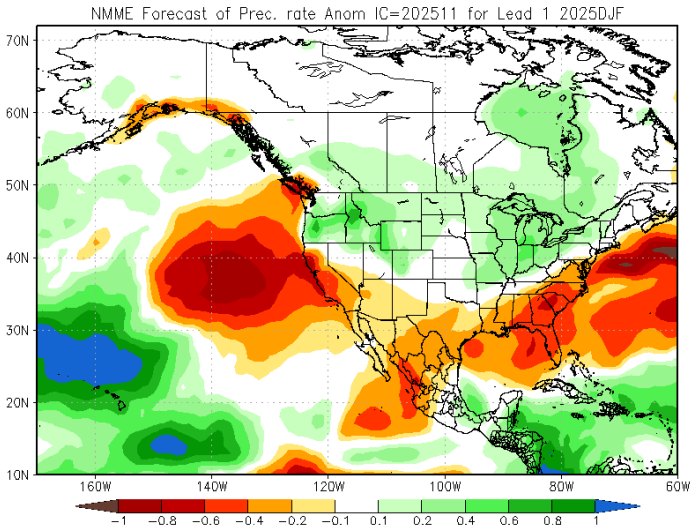

Figure 11: North American Multi-Model Ensemble Precipitation Anomaly Outlook for Dec. 1, 2025 to Feb. 28, 2026 (Map courtesy of the US National Weather Service)

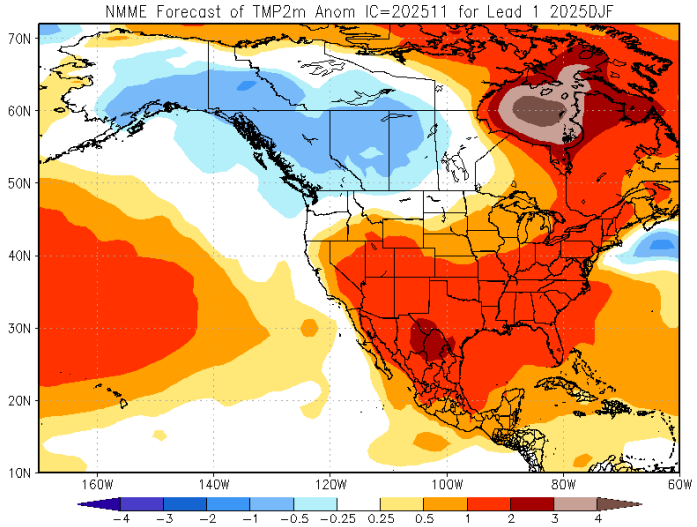

Figure 12: North American Multi-Model Ensemble Temperature Anomaly Outlook for Dec. 1, 2025 to Feb. 28, 2026 (Map courtesy of the US National Weather Service)

Monitoring of Runoff Conditions and Spring Runoff Forecasts

The Water Security Agency will continue to monitor conditions throughout the 2025-26 winter. Beginning in early February, Spring Runoff Outlooks will be released on www.wsask.ca.