Water Availability and Drought Conditions Report

APRIL 2026

1. Executive Summary

This Water Availability and Drought Conditions Report provides an update on conditions throughout Manitoba for April 2026.

- Precipitation conditions over the past month, three-month, and twelve-month periods are as follows:
  - In April, central and southern Manitoba generally received normal to below-normal precipitation, while northern Manitoba experienced wet to extremely wet conditions. The Souris River Basin received much-below-normal precipitation during the month.
  - Over the past three months, from February to April, much of eastern, southern, and central Manitoba experienced moderately dry conditions, with localized areas showing either normal or severely dry conditions. Northern Manitoba was generally moderately wet to extremely wet.
  - Over the past 12 months, Manitoba generally experienced moderately to severely dry precipitation conditions. Small, isolated areas of normal precipitation were observed in the north and near the U.S. border in southern Manitoba, while areas between Lake Winnipeg and Island Lake experienced extremely dry conditions.
- As of April 30, water levels in rivers and lakes across Manitoba ranged from much-below normal conditions, below the 10th percentile, to much-above normal conditions, above the 90th percentile. Most northern stations are currently below normal and are expected to peak by the end of May, as snowmelt has only recently started and is progressing slowly. In southern and central Manitoba, most rivers have either peaked or are near peak, with levels generally in the normal range, between the 25th and 75th percentiles, or above normal range, between the 75th and 90th percentiles, for this time of year.
- As of April 30, groundwater levels at stations in southern Manitoba and Interlake region were in the normal and above-normal range.
- As of March 31, the Canadian Drought Monitor classified conditions in northern and northeastern Manitoba as abnormally dry (D0), with localized areas of moderate drought (D1). Drought conditions in the north are expected to improve further when the map is updated for the end of April. No drought conditions were reported across Manitoba's agricultural regions.
- There are currently no concerns over reservoir water supplies. Provincial water supply reservoirs are either near or exceeding full supply level for the month of April due to snowmelt contributions.

- Manitoba Agriculture's soil moisture map for April 30, 2026 indicates mostly wet to optimal conditions across southern Manitoba at depths of 0 to 120 cm. Areas near Dauphin Lake and in the Interlake are showing very wet conditions in April.
- The Manitoba Wildfire Service reports low fire danger across southern Manitoba, with no wildfire activity reported so far. Refer to the fire and travel restriction maps found at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation_fire/Restrictions/index.html. Visit www.manitoba.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html to view current burning restrictions.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada's seasonal forecast for May-June-July predicts more than 60 percent likelihood of above normal temperatures for southern and central Manitoba. Seasonal forecast indicates around 40 to 50 percent likelihood of a below-normal precipitation for next three months for some portions of the southern and central regions.

2. Drought Indicators

2-1. Precipitation Indicator

Precipitation is assessed to determine the severity of meteorological dryness and is an indirect measurement of agricultural dryness.

Three precipitation indicators are calculated for Nelson-Churchill River Basin, which contributes to Manitoba waters, to represent short-term (one month; Figure 1), medium-term (three months; Figure 2) and long-term (12 months; Figure 3) conditions. The indicators compare current monthly precipitation totals to historical data to calculate the historical percentile of precipitation that occurred over the past one, three or twelve months. Historical percentiles are derived from 46 years of data (1980–2025) obtained from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Any gaps in recent observed precipitation records are supplemented using High-Resolution Deterministic Precipitation Analysis (HRDPA) data.

Due to large distances between meteorological stations in northern Manitoba, the interpolated contours in this region are based on limited observations and should be interpreted with caution.

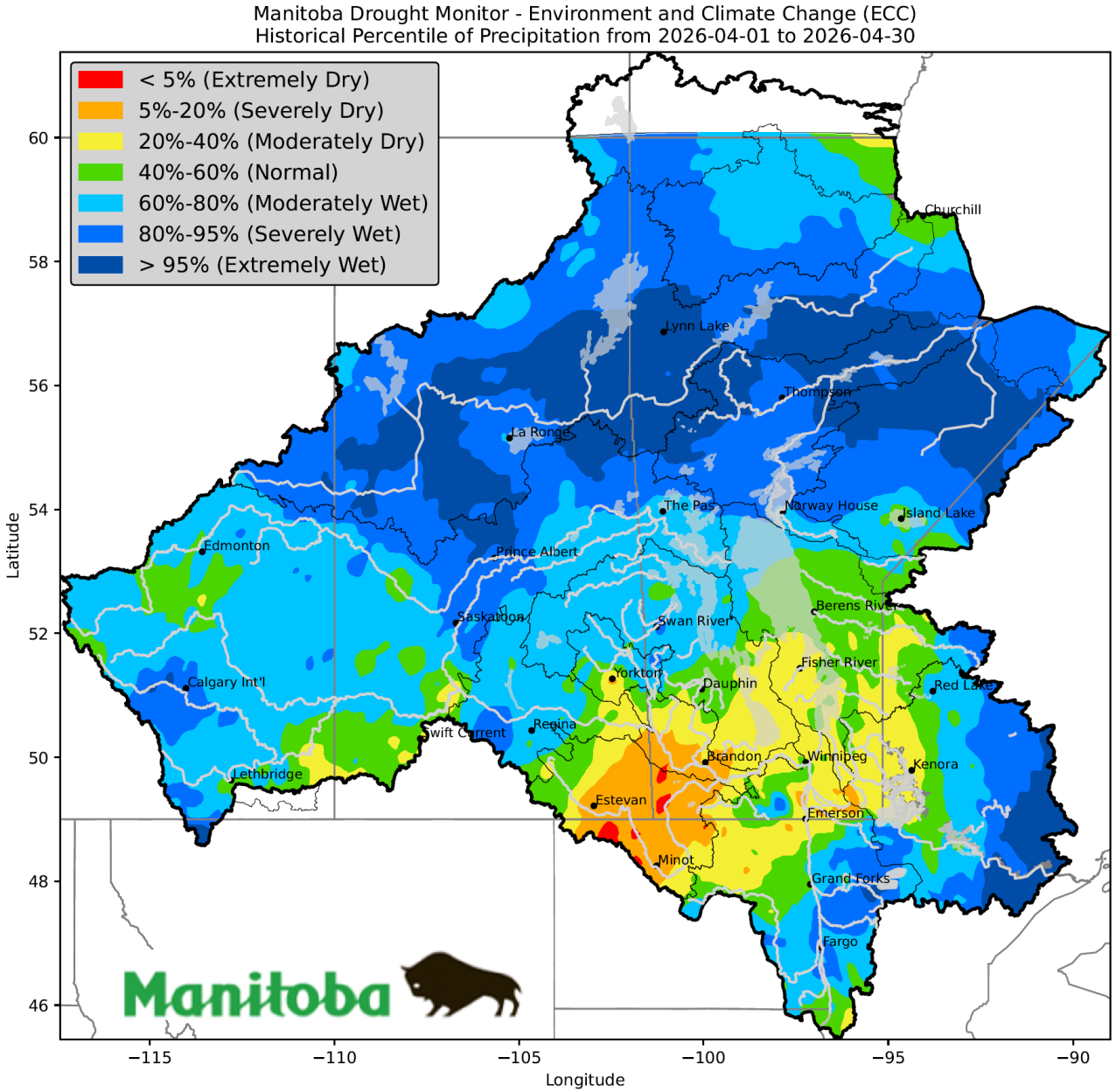

Figure 1: One month (short-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

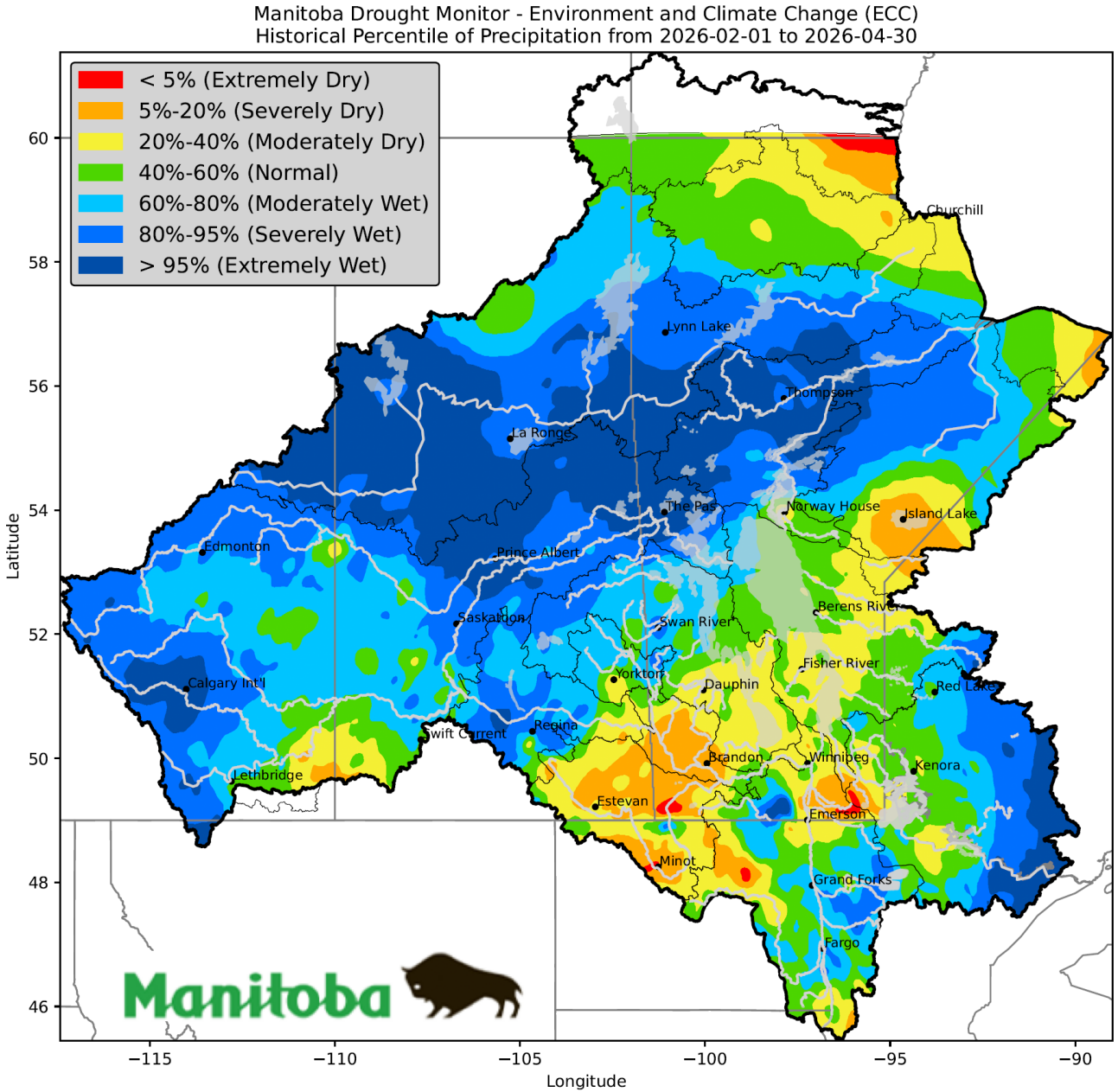

Figure 2: Three month (medium-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

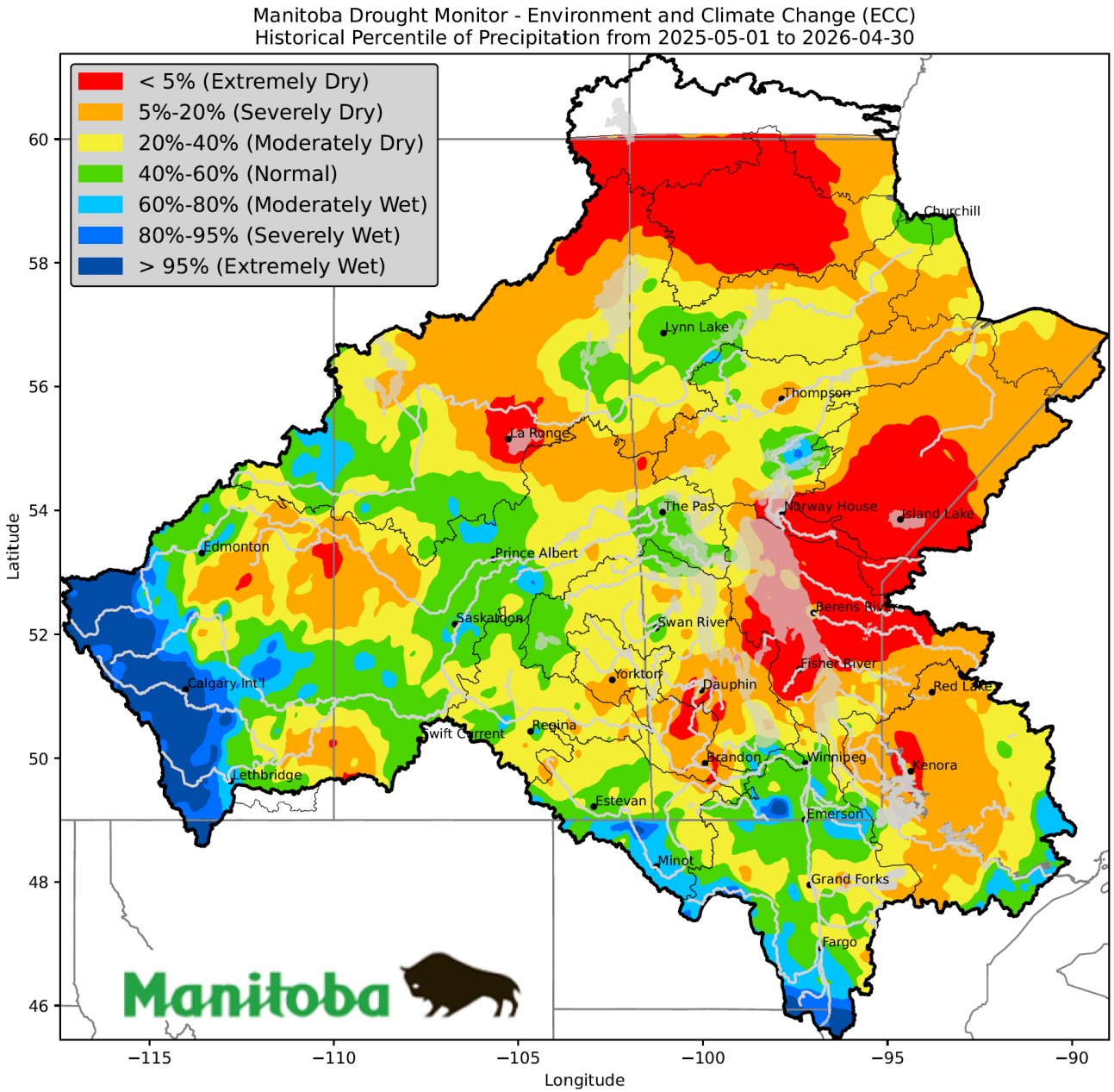

Figure 3: Twelve month (long-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

2-2. Streamflow & Lake Level Indicator

The streamflow and lake level indicator is based on average daily flows and levels compared to historical values for that particular day.

This indicator is used to determine the severity of hydrological dryness in a watershed and is summarized on Figure 4, representing hydrological conditions for April 30, 2026.

Streamflow and lake level percentile plots for all of the rivers and lakes included on Figure 4 are available on the Manitoba Drought Monitor website under the *Drought Indicator Map* tab.

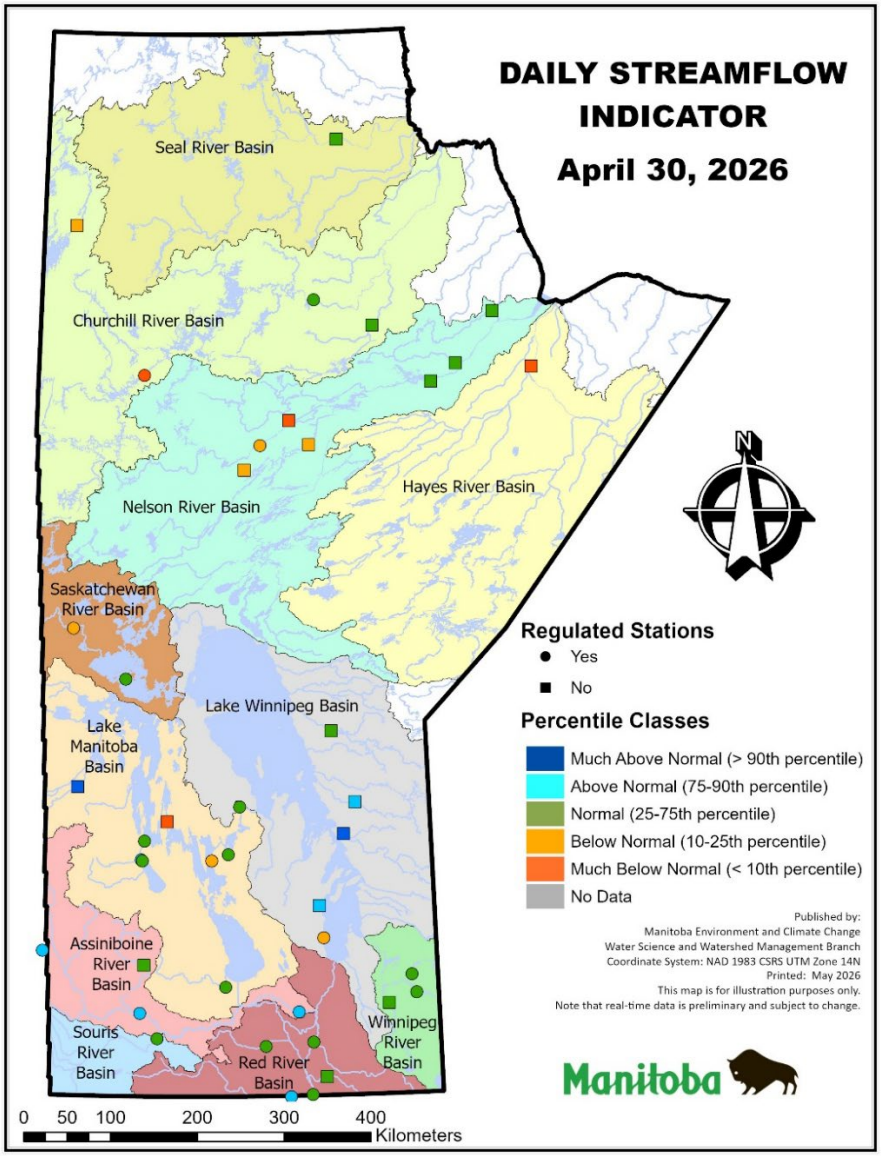

Figure 4: Daily streamflow and lake level indicator for April 30, 2026.

2-3. Groundwater Indicator

Groundwater level indicator is based on average daily levels compared to historical values for that day.

This indicator is used to monitor the impact of meteorological and hydrological dryness on the aquifers in the province and is summarized in Figure 5, representing the groundwater conditions for April 28.

In general, groundwater level responses to precipitation fluctuations lag considerably behind surface water responses, so even prolonged periods of below-normal precipitation may not have a significant negative impact on groundwater levels.

Groundwater level percentile plots for all of the aquifers included on Figure 5 are available on the Manitoba Drought Monitor website under the *Drought Indicator Map* tab.

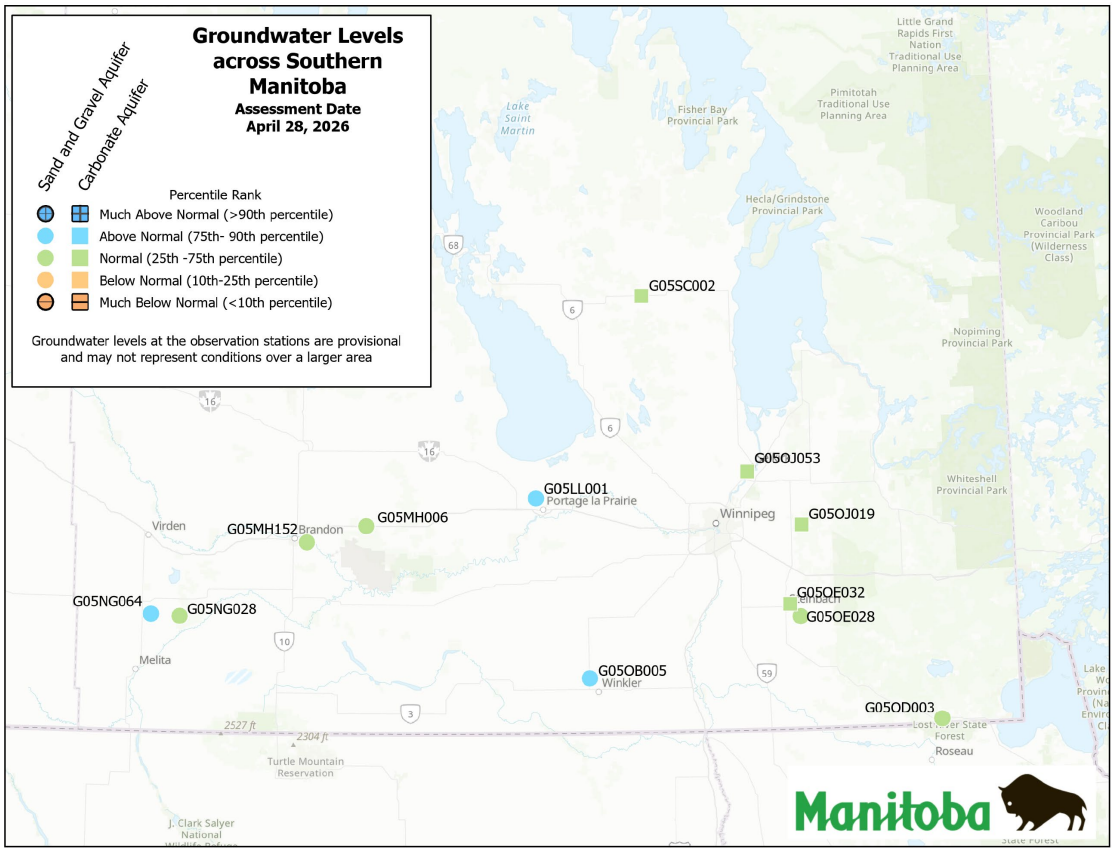

Figure 5: Groundwater indicator on April 28, 2026, for select groundwater monitoring sites.

2-4. Canada and United States Drought Monitors

The Canadian Drought Monitor and the United States Drought Monitor map the extent and intensity of drought conditions across Canada and the continental United States.

Drought Monitor assessments are based on a suite of drought indicators, impacts data and local reports as interpreted by federal, provincial/state and academic scientists.

The Canadian and United States Drought Monitor maps use the following classification system:

- D0 (Abnormally Dry) – represents an event that occurs every three to five years;
- D1 (Moderate Drought) – five to 10 year event;
- D2 (Severe Drought) – 10 to 20 year event;
- D3 (Extreme Drought) – 20 to 50 year event;
- D4 (Exceptional Drought) – 50+ year event.

Additionally, the map indicates the duration of drought as either short-term (S; less than six months) or long-term (L; more than six months) (Figure 6).

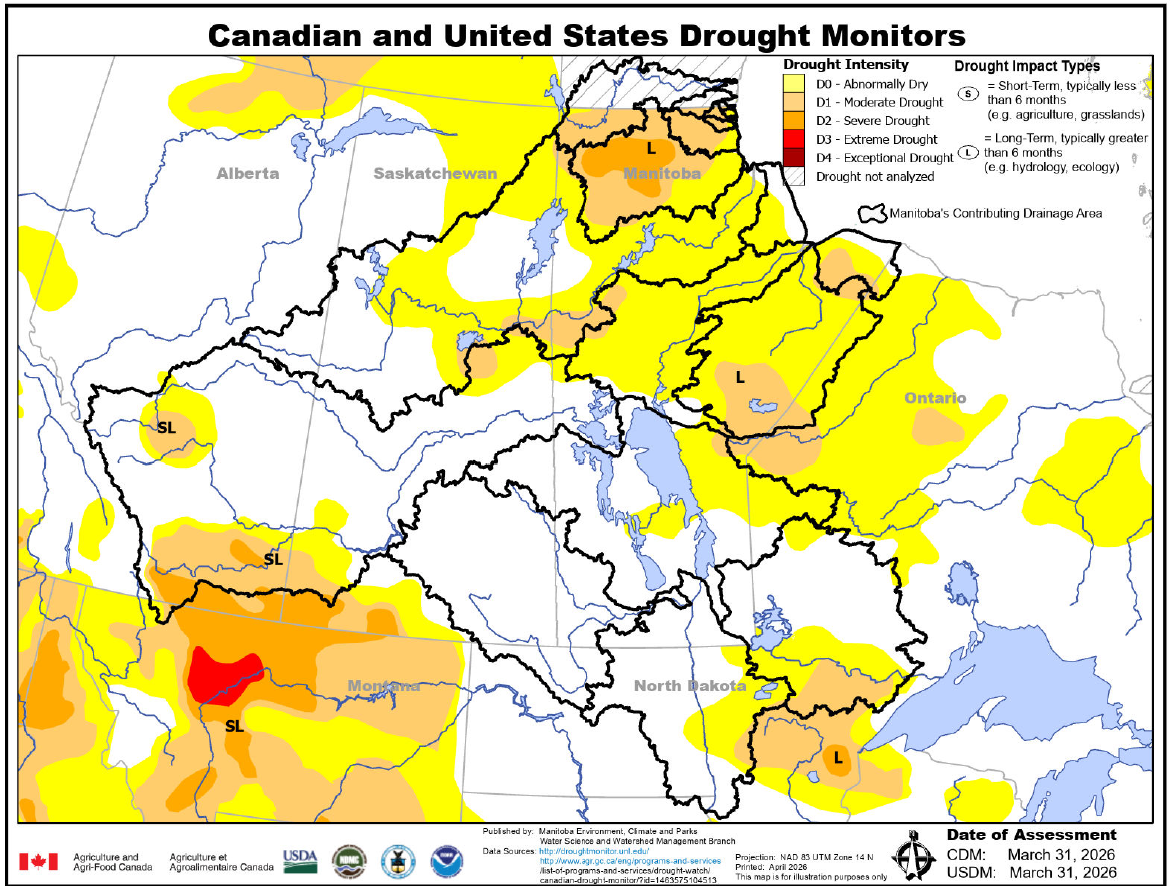

Figure 6: Canadian and United States Drought Monitors' classification of short-term (S) and long-term (L) drought conditions assessed as of March 31, 2026.

3. Water Availability

3-1. Reservoir Conditions

Table 1: Water Supply Reservoir Levels and Storages – April 30, 2026 (Southern and Western Manitoba).

Water Supply Reservoir Levels and Storages - April 30, 2026								
Lake or Reservoir	**Community Supplied**	**Target Level (feet)**	**Latest Observed Level (feet)**	**Observed date**	**Supply Status (Recent - Target) (feet)**	**Storage at Target Level (acre-feet)**	**Storage at Observed Level (acre-feet)**	**Supply Status (observed storage/target storage) (%)**
Lake of the Prairies (Shellmouth)*[1]	Brandon, Portage, Cartier Regional Water Co-op	1,402.5	1398.51	April 30, 2026	-3.99	300,000	250,854	84%
Lake Wahtopanah (Rivers)*	Rivers	1,536.0	1537.62	April 30, 2026	+1.62	24,500	28,149	115%
Minnewasta (Morden)*	Morden	1,082.0	1082.19	April 30, 2026	+0.19	3,150	3,179	101%
Stephenfield*	Carman, Pembina Valley Water Co-op	972.0	973.96	April 30, 2026	+1.96	3,810	4,758	125%
Vermilion*	Dauphin	1,274.0	1276.07	April 30, 2026	+2.07	2,600	3,084	119%
Goudney (Pilot Mound)*		1,482.0	1482.47	April 30, 2026	+0.47	450	474	105%
Jackson Lake*		1,174.0	1174.36	April 30, 2026	+0.36	2,990	3,102	104%
Manitou (Mary Jane)*		1,537.0	1537.29	April 30, 2026	+0.29	1,150	1,159	101%
Turtlehead (Deloraine)*	Deloraine	1,772.0	1772.05	April 30, 2026	+0.05	1,400	1,405	100%
Lake Irwin*		1,178.0	1178.33	April 30, 2026	+0.33	3,800	4,013	106%
Minnedosa*[1]		1,681.5	1680.72	April 30, 2026	-0.78	1,558	1,360	87%
Boissevain*	Boissevain	1,697.0	1698.68	April 21, 2026	+1.68	505	645	128%
Elgin*		1,532.0	1531.07	March 11, 2026	-0.93	520	455	88%
St. Malo*		840.0	841.16	April 30, 2026	+1.16	1,770	1,961	111%
Kenton Reservoir		1,448.0	1448.23	April 30, 2026	+0.23	600	609	102%
Killarney Lake		1,615.0	1615.76	April 30, 2026	+0.76	7,360	7,711	105%

[1] Summer target level and storage
* Real-time water level gauge

3-2. On-Farm Water Supply

On-farm water supply updates from Manitoba Agriculture's Crop Report (May 3, 2026) are as follows:

- Most agricultural regions are showing wet to optimal soil moisture conditions at 0-120 cm depths.
- Areas of the Northwest and Interlake are showing very wet conditions.

3-3. Soil Moisture

A regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm relative to the field capacity is shown on Figure 7.

The colours on the map represent measured soil moisture values from automated instruments at sites across Manitoba. Qualitative range (very dry to very wet) is based on the amount of current soil moisture relative to field capacity. Field Capacity is defined as the maximum amount of moisture the soil can hold when drainage due to gravity stops.

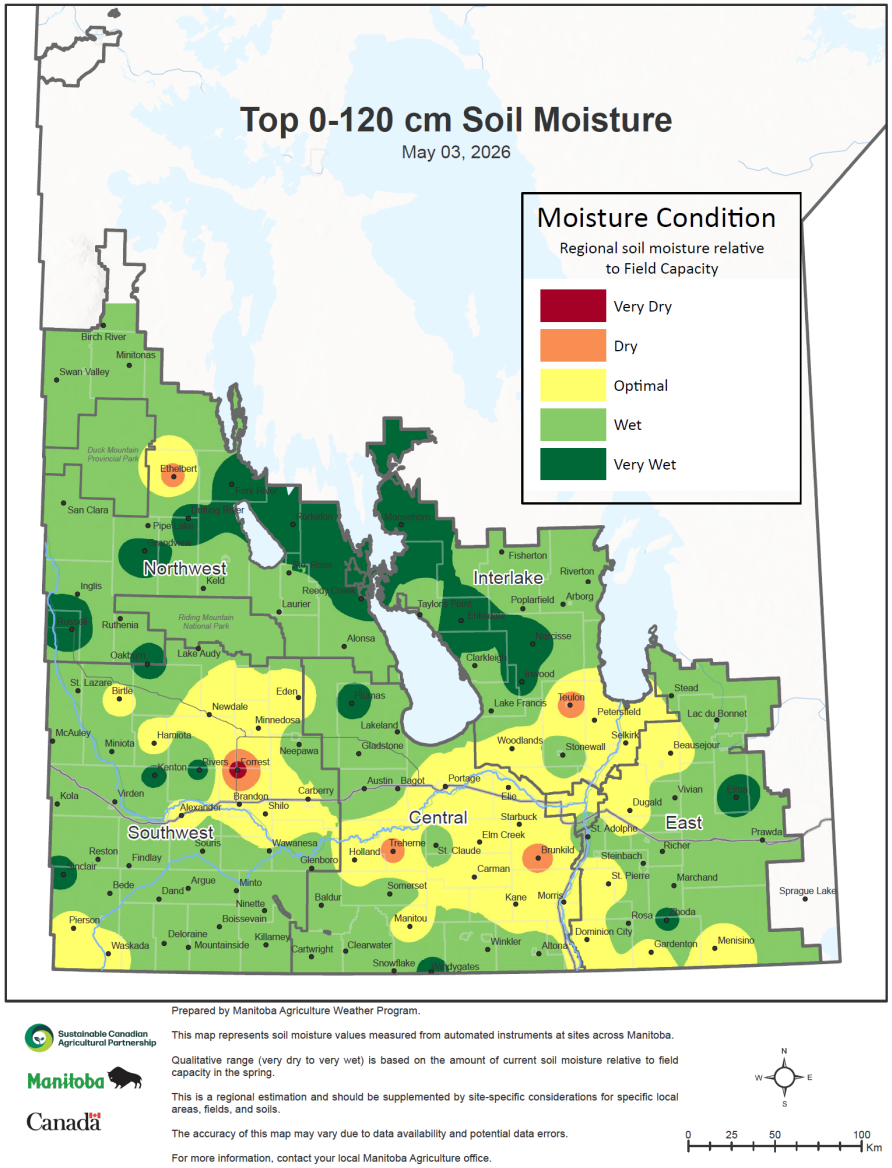

Figure 7: Manitoba Agriculture's May 3, 2026 mapping of soil moisture conditions in the top 0 – 120 cm.

4. Wildfires

The Manitoba Wildfire Service reports low to moderate fire danger across most of the province, with no wildfire activity reported so far.

As of April 30, 2026, the fire weather risk produced by Natural Resources Canada is mostly low to moderate across most of southern Manitoba (Figure 8). Northern region is still covered by snow and fire danger risk is low. Manitobans and visitors are urged to exercise caution and comply with all posted restrictions to prevent wildfires.

As of May 4, 2026, there were no provincial fire or travel restrictions in place. The RMs of Piney, Norfolk Treherne, Victoria, Whitehead, and Glenella-Lansdowne have burning restrictions in place.

Refer to the fire and travel restriction maps found at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation_fire/Restrictions/index.html. Several municipalities continue to implement burning restrictions. Visit www.manitoba.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html to view current burning restrictions.

For further information on the Manitoba Wildfire Service, situation updates, restrictions and other important wildfire links, go to www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire or follow the Manitoba government on X (formerly Twitter) at https://x.com/mbgov.

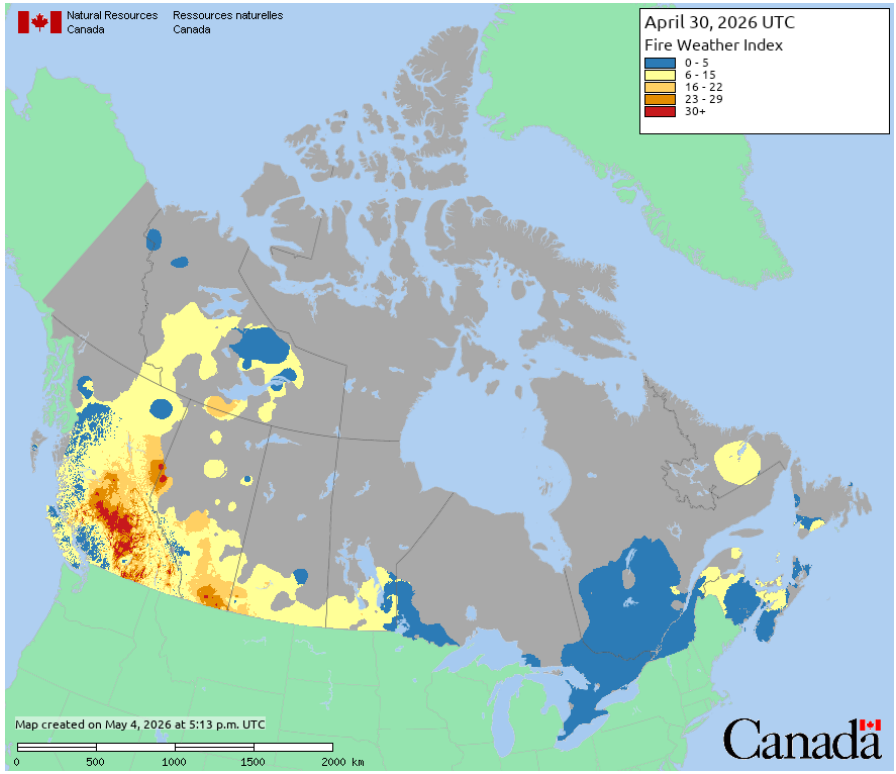

Figure 8: Fire Weather Index mapping by Natural Resources Canada.

5. Impacts due to Dry Conditions

To date, there have been no impacts due to dry conditions in 2026.

6. Future Weather

Environment and Climate Change Canada's seasonal forecast for the next three months, May to July, indicates more than 60 percent likelihood of above-normal temperatures across most of Manitoba, particularly in the southern and central portion of the province (Figure 9). Precipitation during the same period is forecast to lean below normal across southern and central Manitoba, with a 40 to 50 percent probability, except in the southwest, where there is no clear signal toward below-normal, normal, or above-normal precipitation (Figure 10).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicated that La Niña conditions are currently present. A transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is expected in the next month, with ENSO-neutral favored through May-July 2026 (55% chance). In June-August 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (62% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026.

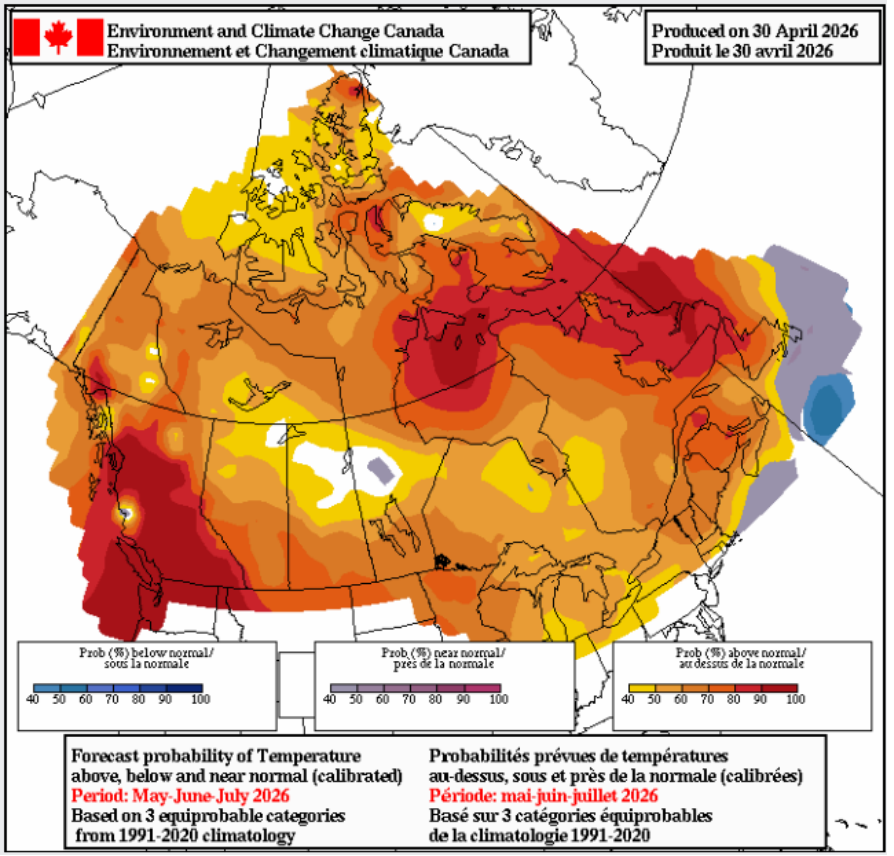

Figure 9: Environment and Climate Change Canada's forecast probability of temperature for next three months (May-June-July)

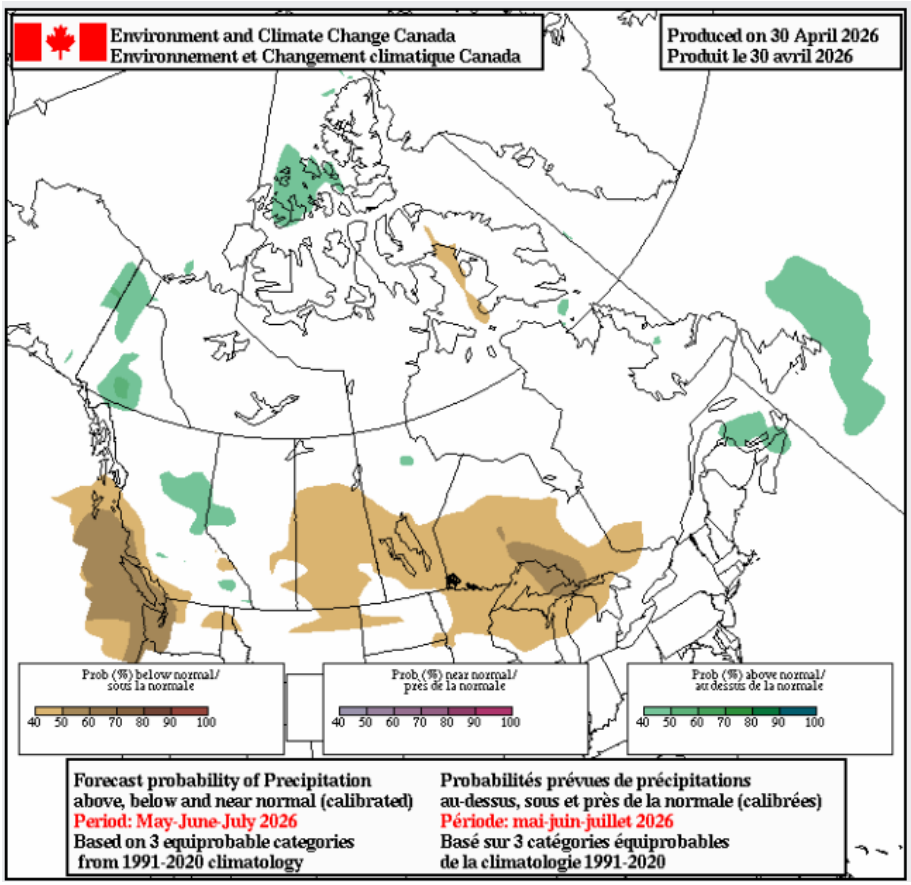

Figure 10: Environment and Climate Change Canada's forecast probability of precipitation for next three months (May-June-July)

Past reports, drought mapping and other information and resources are available on the Manitoba Drought Monitor website.

For further information, or to request information in an accessible version, please contact:

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7. Acknowledgements

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Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure:
Hydrologic Forecast Centre:
https://www.manitoba.ca/floodinfo/

Manitoba Wildfire Service:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fire

Manitoba Agriculture:
Crop Reports:
http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports/crop-report-archive/index.html

Topsoil moisture conditions:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/weather-conditions-and-reports.html

Environment and Climate Change Canada:
Flow and lake level information:
http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index_e.html

Seasonal forecast probability of temperature and precipitation:
https://climate-scenarios.canada.ca/?page=cansips-prob

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:
Canadian drought monitor:
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agriculture-and-environment/drought-watch-and-agroclimate/canadian-drought-monitor

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:
United States drought monitor:
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

El Niño and La Niña information:
https://www.weather.gov/twc/enso