Water Availability and Drought Conditions Report

JUNE 2026

1. Executive Summary

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

- Precipitation conditions over the past month, three-month, and twelve-month periods are as follows:
  - In June, Manitoba generally received moderately to extremely wet precipitation, except the northwest corner of the province, near Lynn Lake, that received below normal precipitation and is in moderately to severely dry condition. Shellmouth Basin received much above normal precipitation over the past month and is in extremely wet condition.
  - Over the past three months, from April to June, most parts of Manitoba experienced normal to severely wet conditions. Areas near Lake of the Woods, north of The Pas, and north of Lynn Lake experienced moderately to severely dry precipitation conditions over the past three months.
  - Over the past 12 months, southern and western Manitoba, some parts of Interlake region, and areas between Thompson and Lynn Lake in the north generally experienced normal to severely wet precipitation conditions. Fisher River Basin, areas east of the Lake Winnipeg received moderately to severely below-normal precipitation. Island Lake and some areas near the provincial border in the north still show extremely dry conditions for the past 12 months. Most parts of Winnipeg River Basin is in moderately dry to severely dry condition for all short-term, mid-term, and long-term periods.
- As of June 30, water levels in rivers and lakes across Manitoba ranged from normal conditions, between the 25th and 75th percentiles, to much-above normal conditions, above the 90th percentile. The gauge at Whiteshell River recorded below-normal levels, between 10th and 25th percentiles.
- As of June 25, most groundwater levels in southern Manitoba and the Interlake region were in the normal range, between 25th and 75th historical percentiles.
- As of May 31, the Canadian Drought Monitor classified conditions in the Seal River Watershed in northern Manitoba as abnormally dry (D0) to moderately dry (D1). Abnormally dry conditions were reported in some localized areas in southern Manitoba for end of May. However, these regions received significant rains in June, and conditions significantly improved.
- 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 June due to significant rainfall contributions.

- Manitoba Agriculture's soil moisture map for June 30 indicates mostly optimal to wet conditions across southern Manitoba at depths of 0 to 120 cm. Areas near Dauphin Lake, Windygates, Winkler, Manitou, Eriksdale, and San Clara are showing very wet conditions for June. Dugouts are mostly full or overflowing.
- The Manitoba Wildfire Service reports a high to extreme level of fire danger in the north area of the province and a low level of fire danger in the rest of the province. The town of Lynn Lake and Marcel Colomb First Nation in northern Manitoba have been evacuated due to wildfire activities. 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 July-August-September predicts 60 to 90 percent likelihood of above-normal temperatures for most parts of Manitoba. The seasonal forecast, however, shows no significant trend for below-normal, near-normal, or above-normal precipitation for the next three months for the province.

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 the 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.

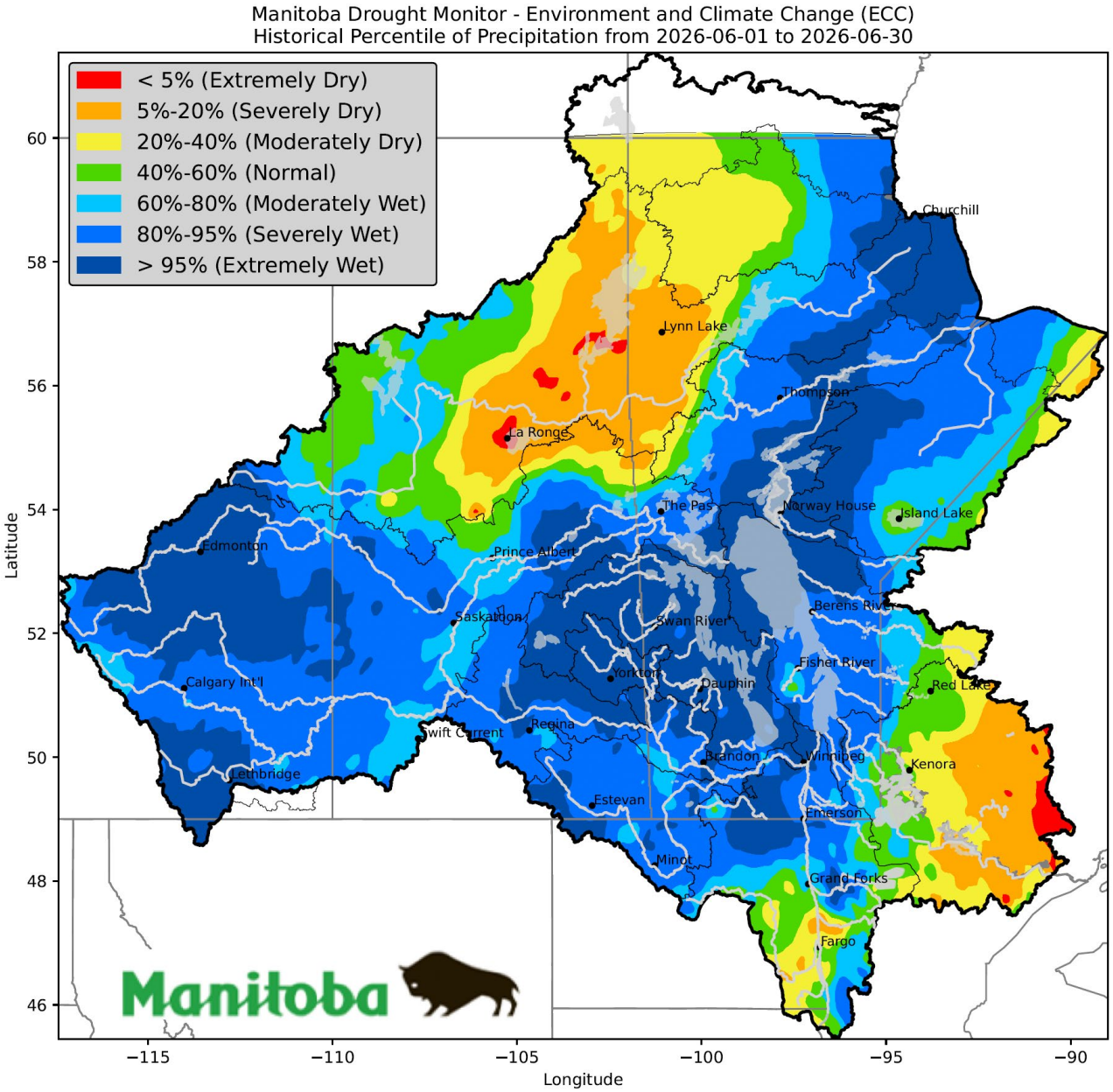

Figure 1: One month (short-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

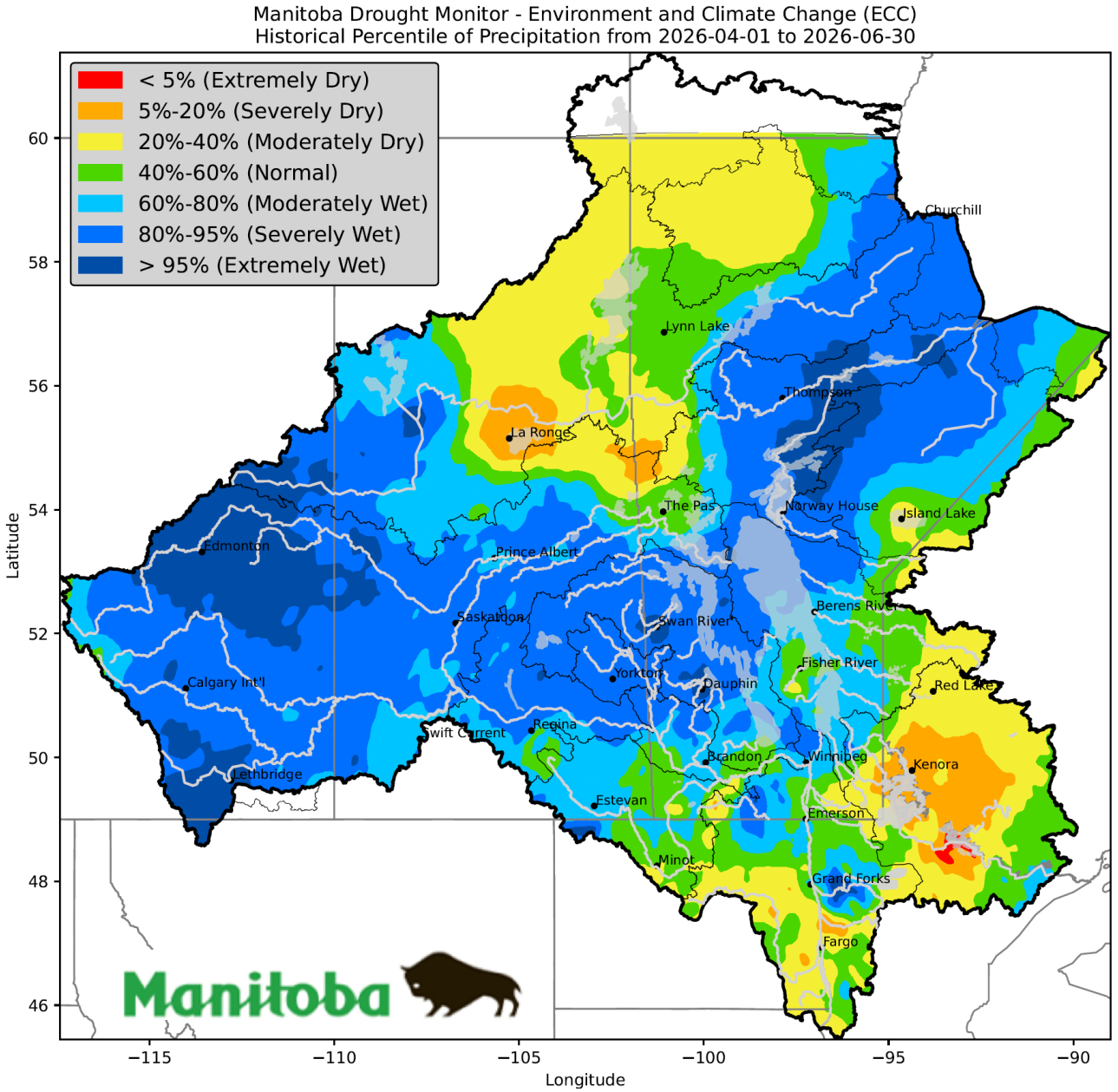

Figure 2: Three month (medium-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

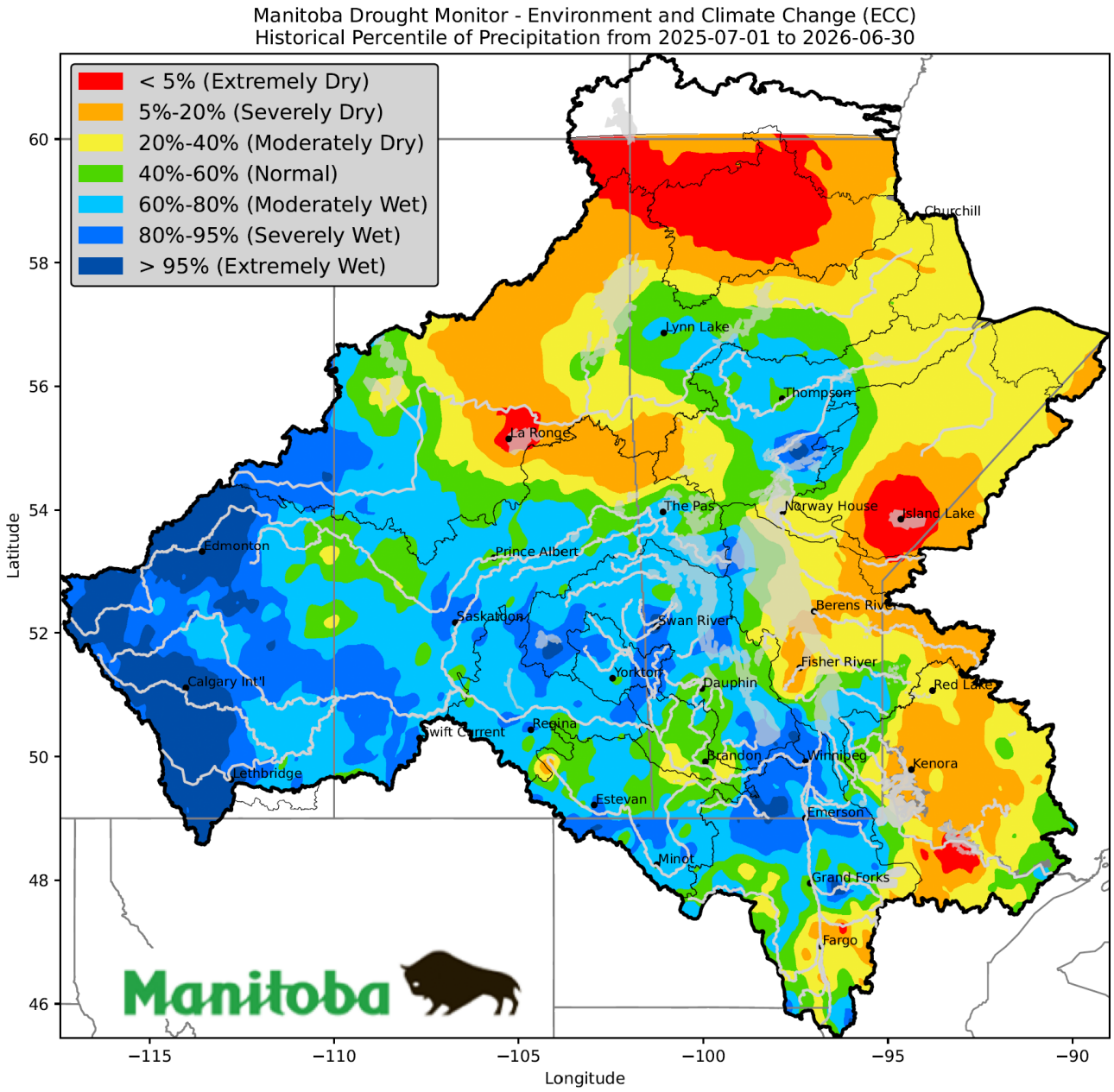

Figure 3: Twelve month (long-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

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 June 30. Except for Whiteshell River, which is showing below-normal flow condition, all other locations shown in Figure 4 are experiencing normal to much-above-normal conditions.

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.

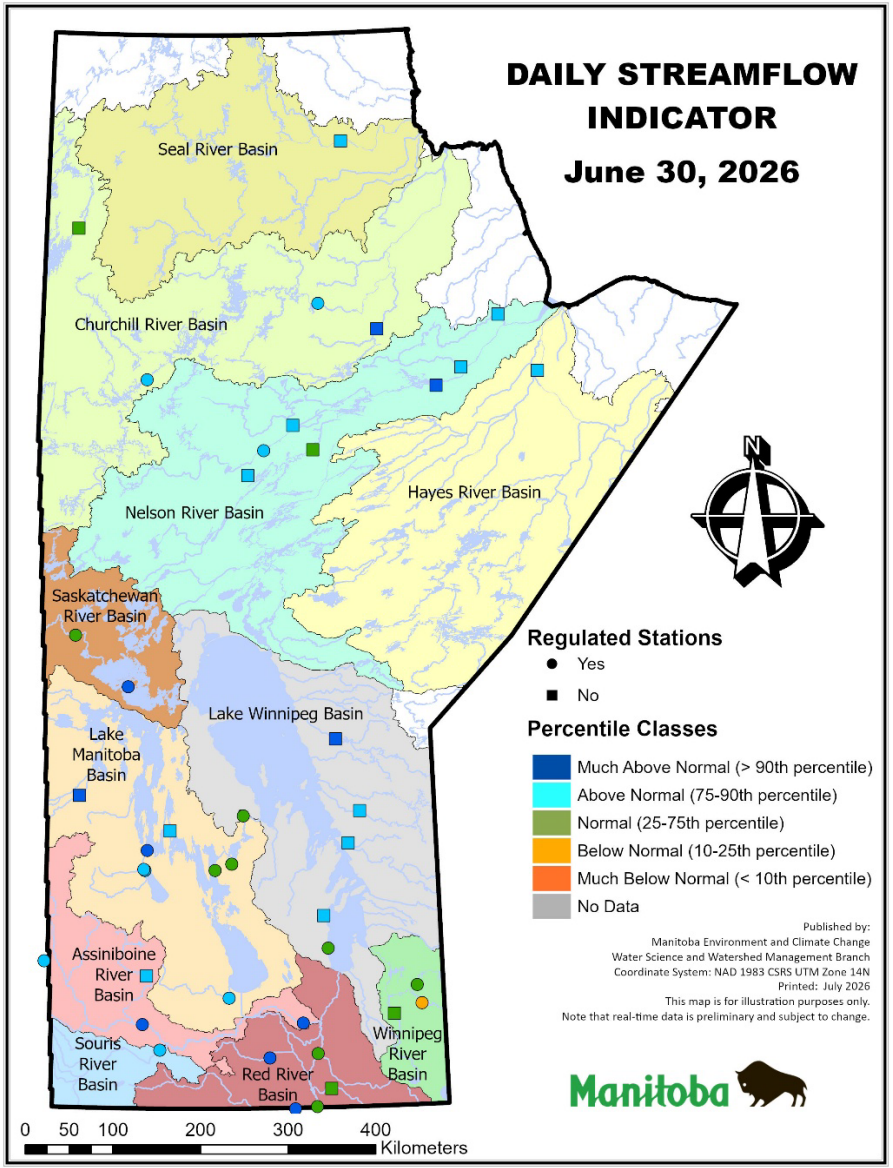

Figure 4: Daily streamflow and lake level indicator for June 30.

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 June 25. All aquifers in southern Manitoba and the Interlake region are showing near-normal groundwater levels.

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.

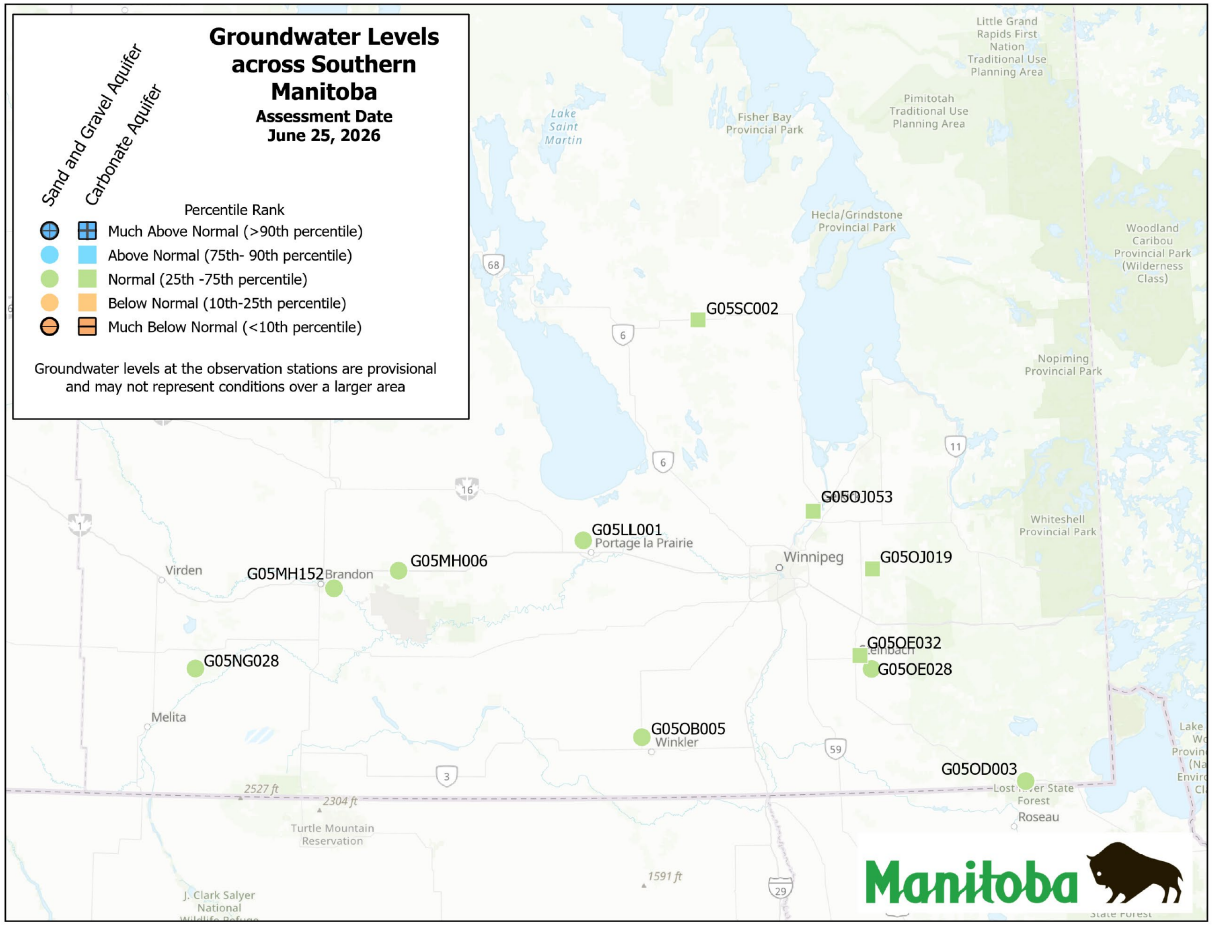

Figure 5: Groundwater indicator on June 25 for select groundwater monitoring sites.

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).

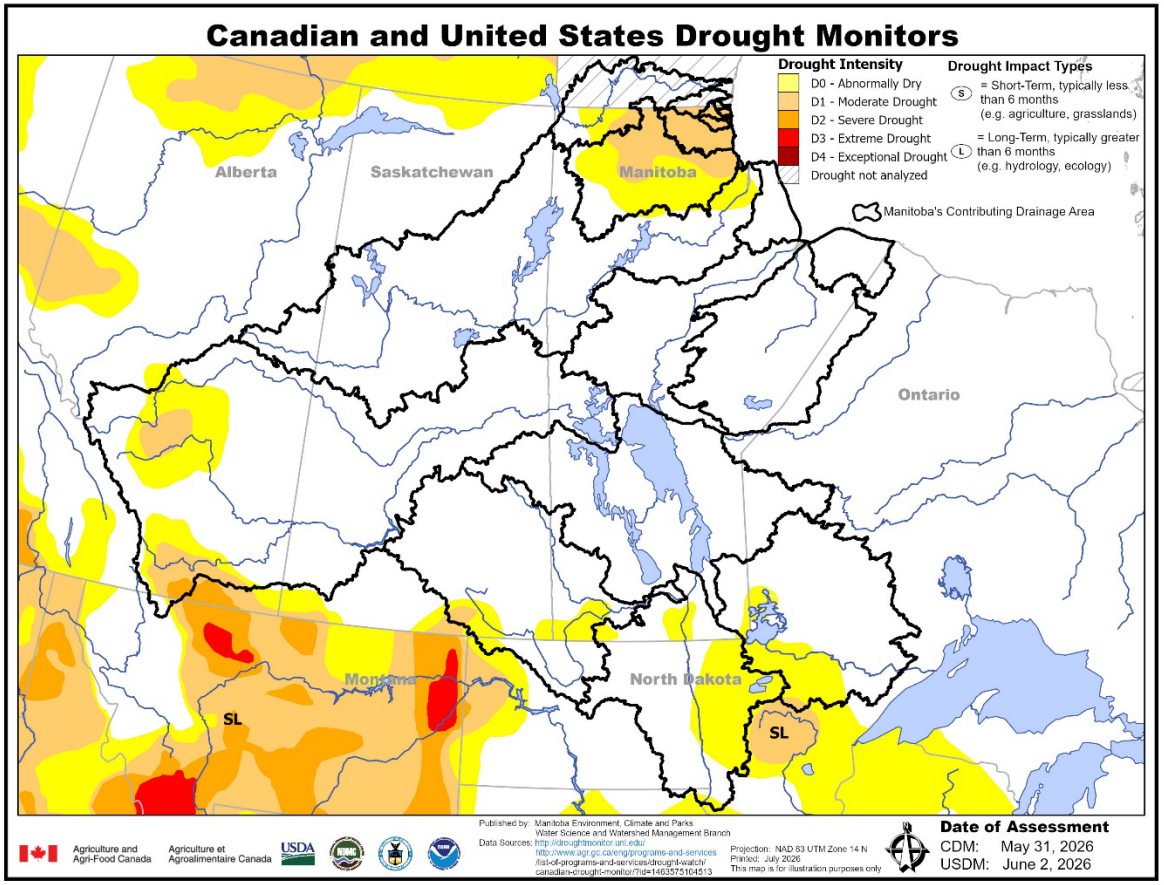

Figure 6: Canadian and United States Drought Monitors' classification of short-term (S) and long-term (L) drought conditions assessed as of May 31.

3. Water Availability

3-1. Reservoir Conditions

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

Water Supply Reservoir Levels and Storages - June 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	1411.87	June 30, 2026	+9.37	300,000	442,957	148%
Lake Wahtopanah (Rivers)*	Rivers	1,536.0	1537.46	June 30, 2026	+1.46	24,500	27,792	113%
Minnewasta (Morden)*	Morden	1,082.0	1082.40	June 30, 2026	+0.40	3,150	3,213	102%
Stephenfield*	Carman, Pembina Valley Water Co-op	972.0	973.94	June 30, 2026	+1.94	3,810	4,750	125%
Vermilion*	Dauphin	1,274.0	1278.93	June 30, 2026	+4.93	2,600	3,751	144%
Goudney (Pilot Mound)*		1,482.0	1483.47	June 30, 2026	+1.47	450	524	116%
Jackson Lake*		1,174.0	1173.57	June 30, 2026	-0.43	2,990	2,880	96%
Manitou (Mary Jane)*		1,537.0	1542.87	June 30, 2026	+5.87	1,150	1,665	145%
Turtlehead (Deloraine)*	Deloraine	1,772.0	1772.22	June 30, 2026	+0.22	1,400	1,424	102%
Lake Irwin*		1,178.0	1179.33	June 30, 2026	+1.33	3,800	4,631	122%
Minnedosa*[1]		1,681.5	1681.18	June 30, 2026	-0.32	1,558	1,463	94%
Boissevain*	Boissevain	1,697.0	1698.80	June 30, 2026	+1.80	505	658	130%
Elgin*		1,532.0	1533.17	June 30, 2026	+1.17	520	600	115%
St. Malo*		840.0	840.52	June 30, 2026	+0.52	1,770	1,855	105%
Kenton Reservoir		1,448.0	1448.40	June 30, 2026	+0.40	600	616	103%
Killarney Lake		1,615.0	1615.41	June 30, 2026	+0.41	7,360	7,551	103%

[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 (June 30) are as follows:

- Most agricultural regions are showing wet to very wet soil moisture conditions at 0-120 cm depths.
- Dugouts are mostly full or overflowing.

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.

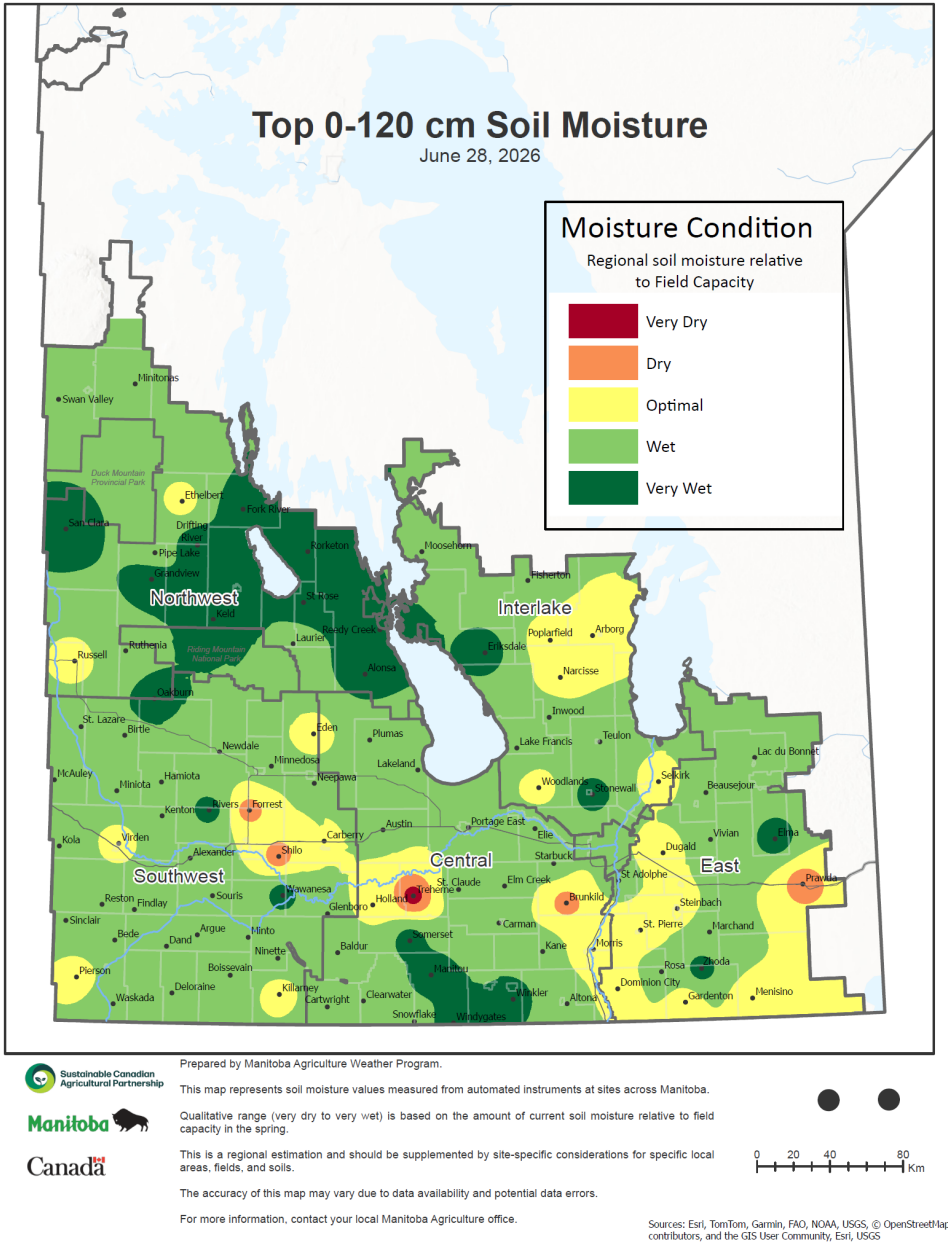

Figure 7: Manitoba Agriculture's June 28 mapping of soil moisture conditions in the top 0 – 120 cm.

4. Wildfires

As of June 30, the Manitoba Wildfire Service reports a high to extreme fire danger across northern Manitoba, and a low level of fire danger in the rest of the province. There have been 127 active wildfires across the province. The town of Lynn Lake and Marcel Colomb First nation in the north have been evacuated. O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation has also declared a local state of emergency and is evacuating priority individuals.

Figure 8 shows the map of Canada fire weather index. Fire weather index represents the expected intensity of a fire spreading through a coniferous forest, including the likely flame size. It is commonly used to assess how difficult a fire may be to control, with higher values indicating greater fire intensity and larger flames.

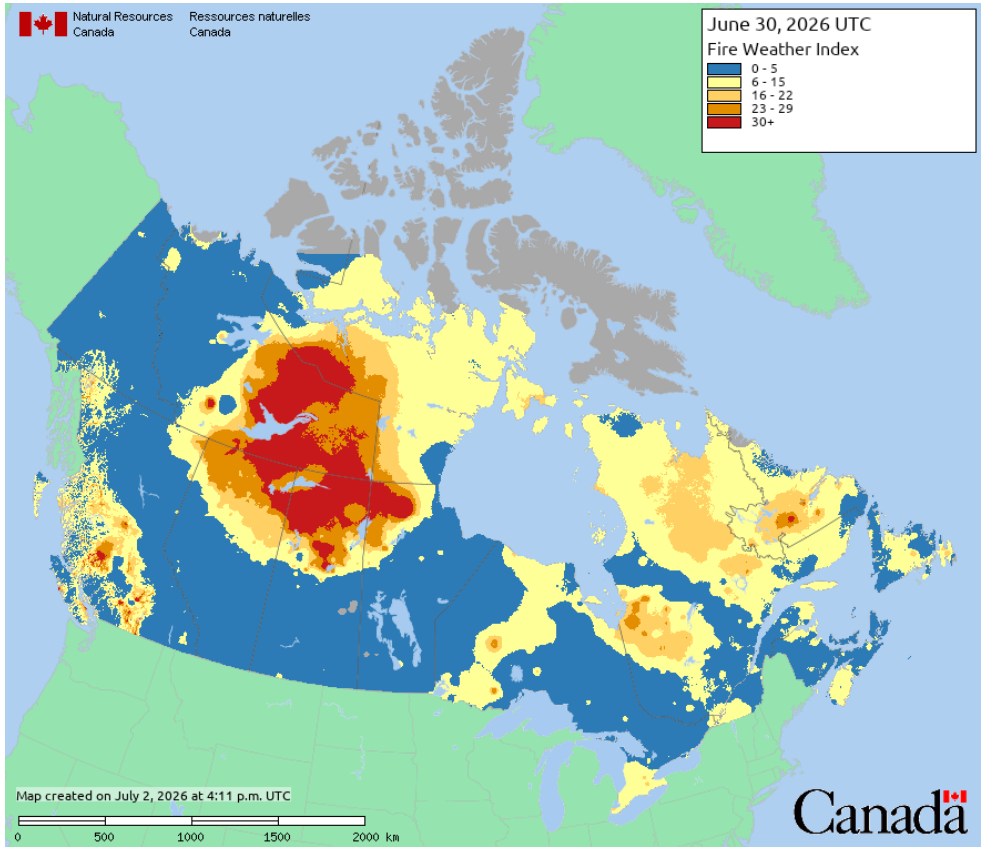

Figure 8: Fire Weather Index mapping by Natural Resources Canada.

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.

5. Impacts due to Dry Conditions

The most significant impact due to meteorological drought conditions is severe wildfire risk and active fires across Northern parts of Manitoba. Wildfire risk will remain high due to below-normal precipitation. Precipitation will be needed to prevent the development of a hydrological drought.

6. Future Weather

Environment and Climate Change Canada's seasonal forecast for the next three months, July to September, indicates 60 to 90 percent likelihood of above-normal temperatures across most of Manitoba, particularly in the northern portion of the province (Figure 9). Seasonal precipitation forecast during the same period indicates no clear and strong signal toward below-normal, normal, or above-normal precipitation (Figure 10).

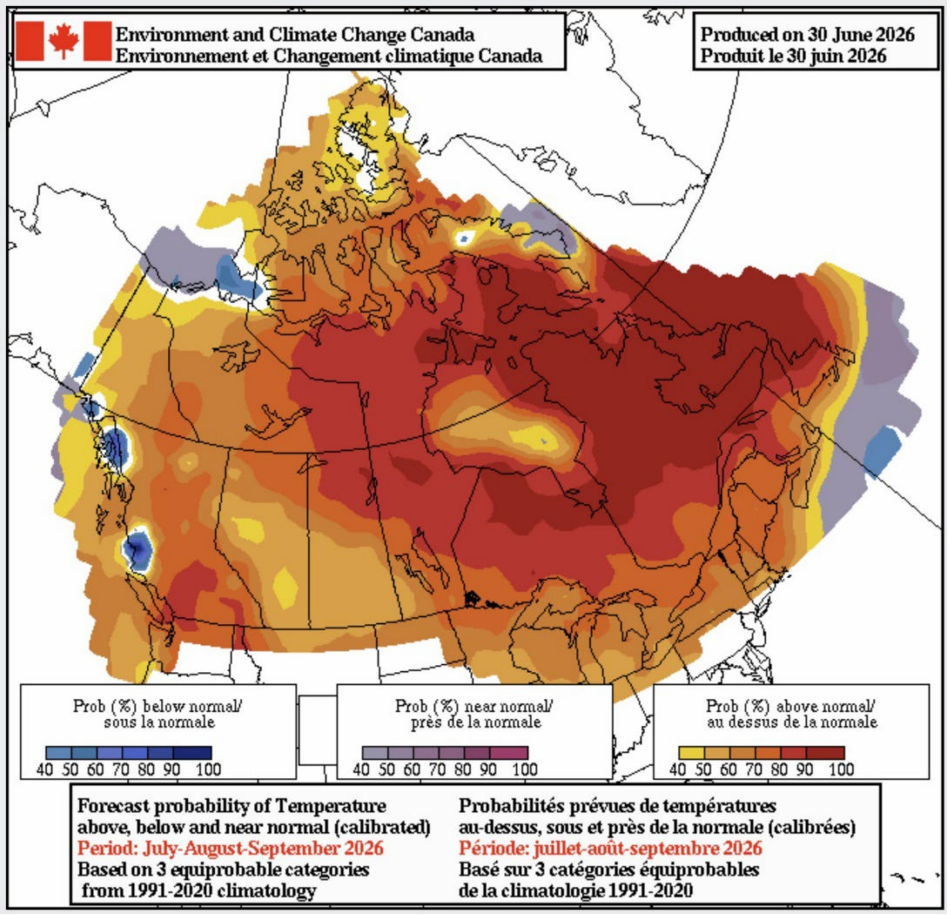

Figure 9: Environment and Climate Change Canada's forecast probability of temperature for next three months (July-August-September)

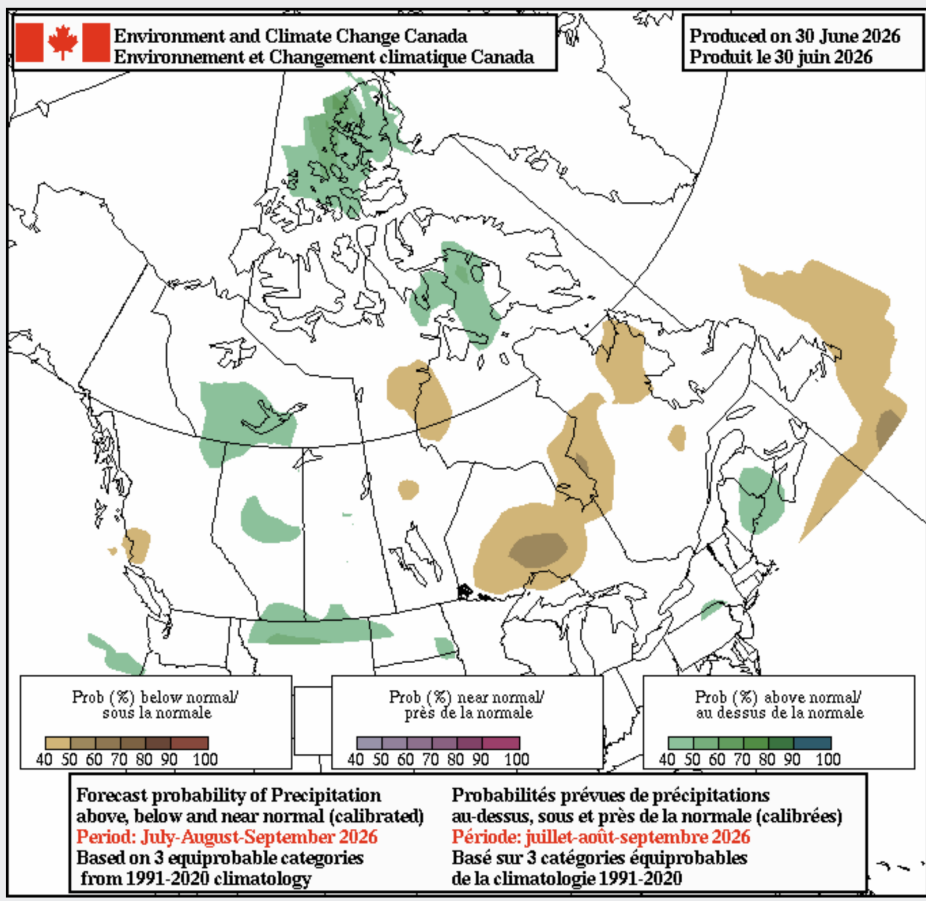

Figure 10: Environment and Climate Change Canada's forecast probability of precipitation for next three months (July-August-September)

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 format, please contact:

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7. Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with information from the following sources which are gratefully acknowledged:

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

Natural Resources Canada:
Canada wildland fire information system:
https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/en/

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