



Ducks Unlimited Canada  
CANADA'S CONSERVATION COMPANY

## Mid-Winter Habitat Conditions in Canada

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*Conditions have improved in much of Alberta since mid November; however the east-central region remains dry. In Saskatchewan conditions have improved considerably in the northern and eastern aspen parklands. Very good habitat conditions now exist over most of Manitoba. Habitat conditions continue to improve in southern British Columbia and in eastern Canada.*

Precipitation continues to be above normal across much of **British Columbia** especially in the southwest where record precipitation events have occurred. Soil moisture levels are high in the southern and central interior and wetland conditions have continued to improve there. To the northeast in the Peace River region precipitation has been in the normal to above-normal range and soil moisture and wetland habitat conditions are good. Only in the extreme south-east and north-east corners of the province are conditions dryer than normal.

Average to above-average soil moisture insured a good frost seal over all regions in **Alberta** except for the east-central area between north and south branches of the Saskatchewan River. The drought continues to persist in this area and winter habitat conditions are still rated as poor to fair. Elsewhere in the central and south-eastern prairies the snow pack is well below normal and more snow will be needed to take advantage of the frost seal. To the west in the prairie and central-parkland regions there have been good amounts of precipitation since 1 November and conditions are rated as good. Similar good conditions exist in the southern Peace Parklands and north-eastern central parklands. Northern portions of the Peace Parklands have received more snow recently and habitat conditions have improved to good.

Across **Saskatchewan** wetland habitat conditions at freeze-up varied from fair in the west-central region to good in the north-central parklands with a generally good frost seal across the province. Since 1 November precipitation has been above normal across the northern and eastern aspen parkland resulting in good to very good conditions across this area. Fair to good conditions cover the majority of the central and western prairies and south-western aspen parklands. Recent precipitation has improved conditions in the southwest. Although more snow is needed to take advantage of the good frost seal across the province, conditions at this time are better than those of the past several years.

Conditions have improved over much of the **Western Boreal Forest**. Precipitation has increased across northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, central and southern Yukon and the NWT. Only in northern British Columbia are accumulations below normal.

Since 1 November, well above-normal precipitation occurred over nearly all of **Manitoba**. Only in the extreme south-west corner of the province near Melita are accumulations slightly below normal. With a good frost seal and good wetland water carry-over, the stage is set for better than average habitat conditions in Manitoba this spring.

Habitat conditions remain good to very good across **Ontario**. Frequent winter storms have brought above-normal precipitation to all parts of southern Ontario. Habitat conditions across the

south, near-north and northern clay belts are rated as very good. Good habitat conditions exist in the clay belt regions west of Thunder Bay.

Weather conditions continue to be milder than normal across **Quebec** but precipitation accumulation has increased to above normal in most regions. Freeze-up brought a good frost seal and with the good precipitation recently, good habitat conditions should exist in the province this spring.

Recent major snow storms in **Atlantic Canada** have helped to insure better than average breeding habitat next spring.

