

Moisture Situation Update – October 18, 2016

Synopsis

Unseasonal cool and wet weather has continued to linger throughout the province, with two major snowfall events striking the northern half of the province in recent weeks which were large enough to result in persistent snow accumulations. As of October 18th snow packs were estimated to have covered many lands north of Red Deer (**see map 1**). Areas north of the Yellowhead Highway received significant accumulations, with snow packs estimated to contain at least 20 to 25 mm of water. This translates roughly, to upwards of 15 cm of wet snow on the ground. Parts of the western Peace Region are estimated to have even more snow, with snow packs containing upwards of 50 mm of water (25 cm of snow on the ground). However, at the time of writing (October 20th), snows have begun a gradual melt in the face of warmer weather, which is expected to persist into the weekend.

Over the past 30-days most of the province has seen above normal precipitation accumulations, with many areas north of the Yellowhead Highway estimated to see accumulations like this, less than once in 12 to 25 years (**see map 2**). Similarly abnormally wet conditions have continued through the south-half of the Peace Region, west of Highway 2 (along the foot hills) and through parts of southeastern Alberta. Over this same 30-day period, well below average temperatures have persisted, with large parts of the province classified as having weather this cool, on average less than once in 25 years (**see map 3**).

Forecaster's comments from AF's Fire Weather Section

The current warming trend is expected to persist, province wide through to the weekend. By Monday night (October 24th) a frontal band is expected to develop roughly along a line stretching from Grande Prairie to Cold Lake. This is expected to bring wet weather to many areas north of this for a few days. At the moment, it appears that during this time, most of the Province south of the Swan Hills should stay relatively dry. Later in the week it's likely a south westerly flow will develop aloft, which should bring season weather to most of the province.

Real Time Radar can be used to track and monitor thunderstorms at:

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/acis/weather-radar.jsp>

Additional maps can be found at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST.

Ralph Wright

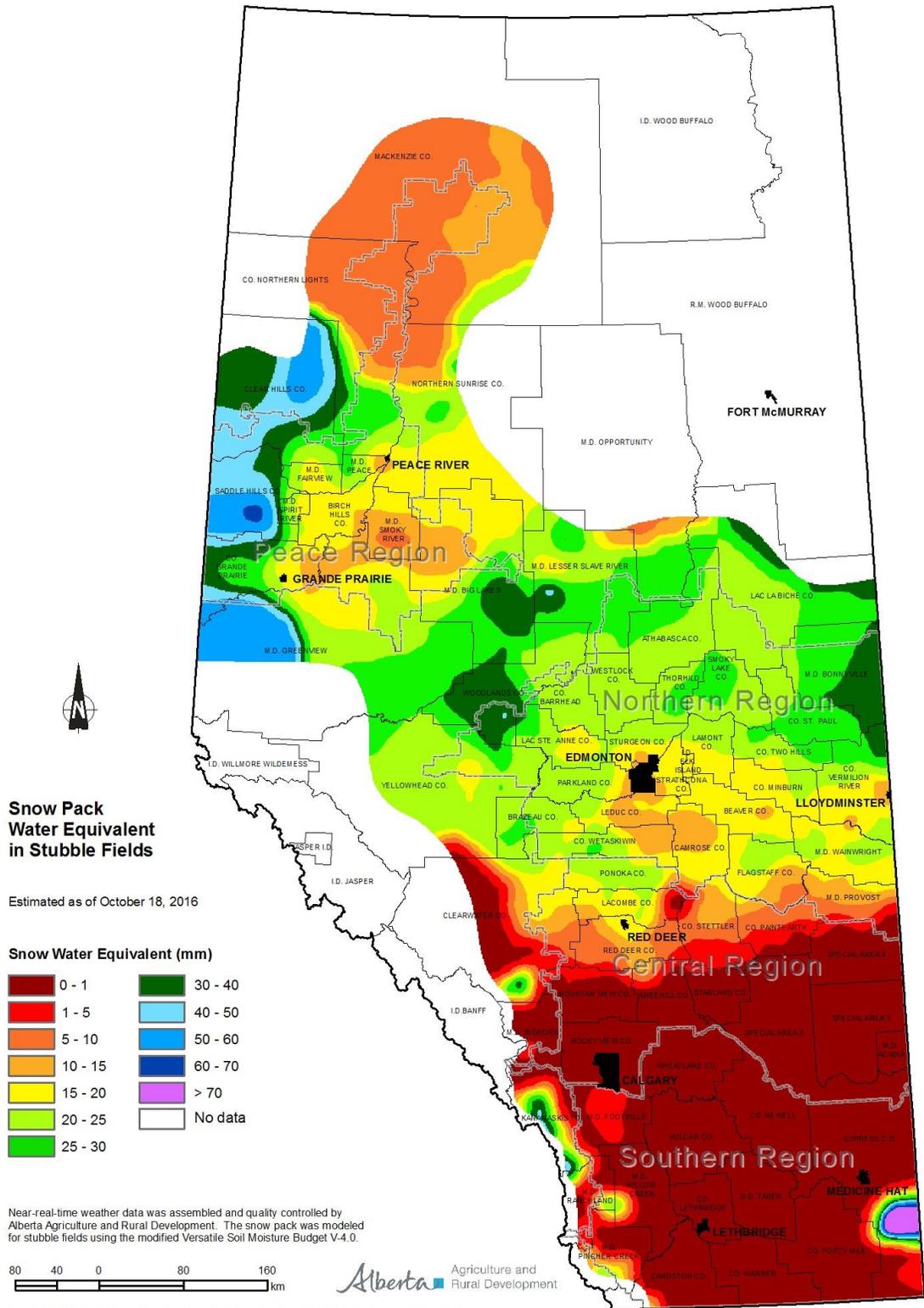
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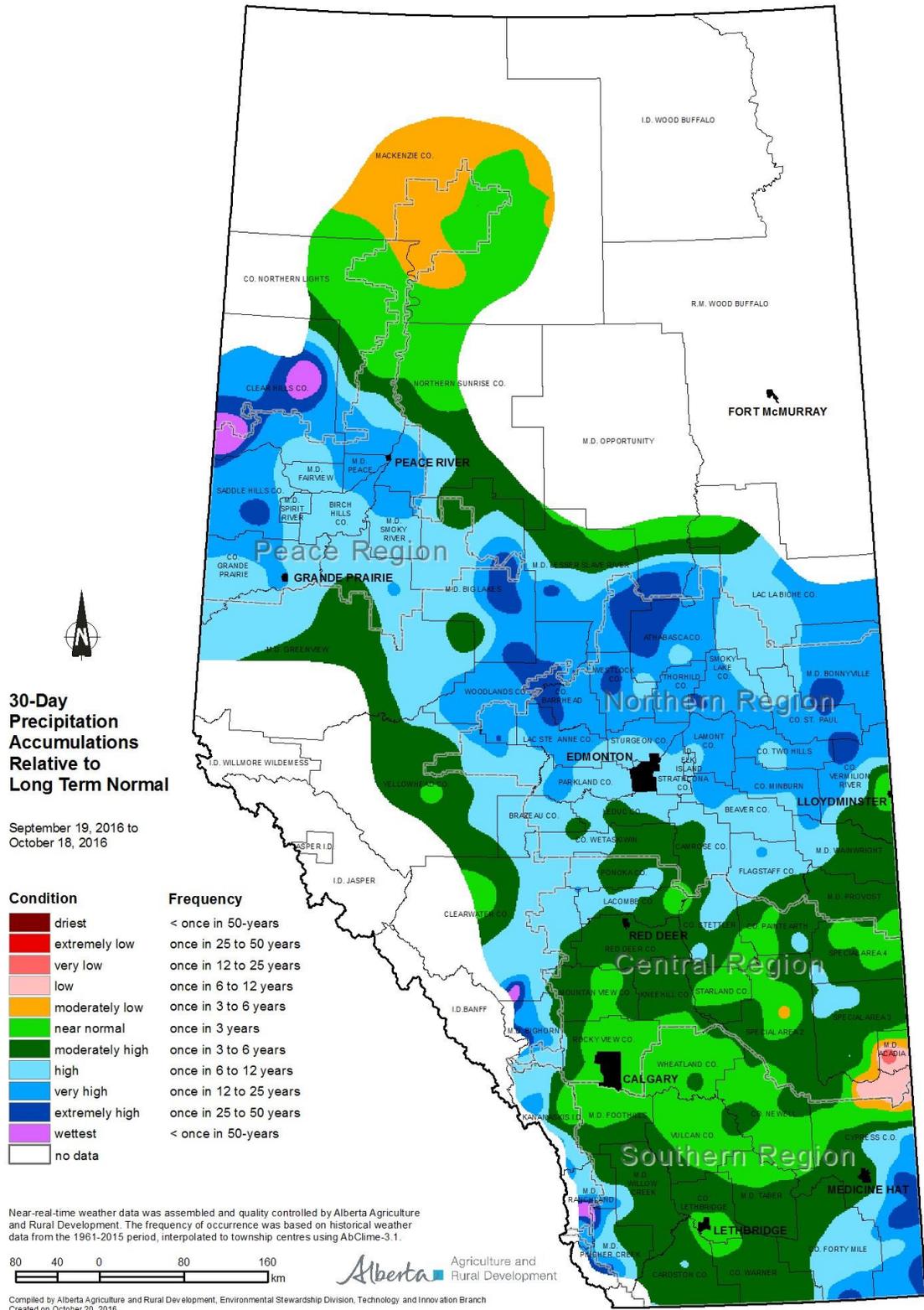
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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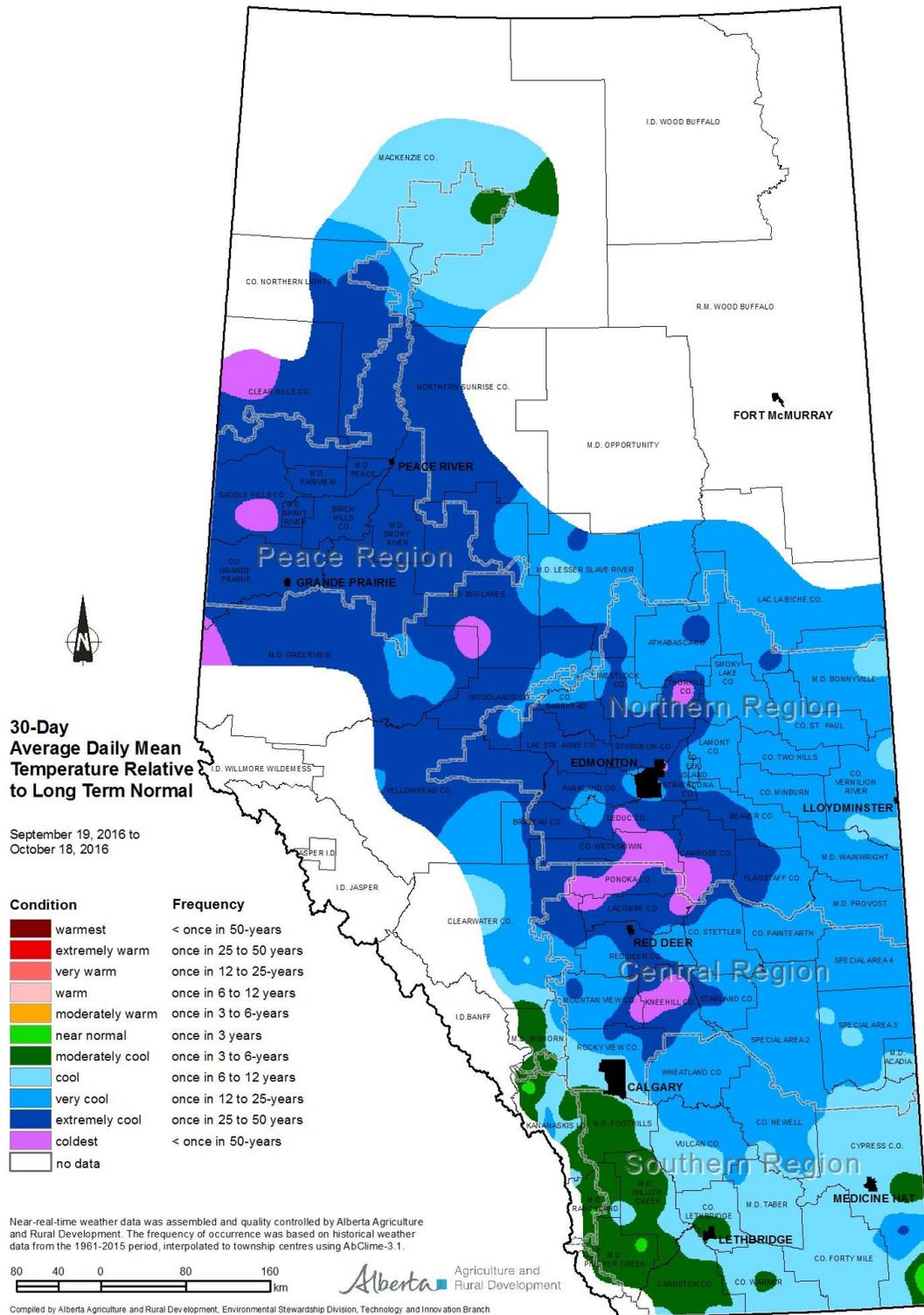
Map 2



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Map 3



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