

## Moisture Situation Update – March 19, 2017

### Synopsis

This winter precipitation was variable across the province, ranging from near normal across west-central Alberta and through some parts of southern Alberta, to at least one in 12-year lows across many areas north of the Yellowhead Highway, extending well up into the northern Peace Country (see map 1). Across most of the northern-half of the province, modest snow fall accumulations, along with frequent warm spells, resulted in several minor snowmelt episodes, reducing snow packs to well below normal for this time of year, (see map 2). For the most part, these below normal snowpack's were welcome by many, following a wetter than normal fall. This is particularly true for folks that still have crops standing in the fields, or those that were concerned that above average snowfall accumulations and wet spring conditions would delay access to fall saturated lands, during the coming spring field operations.

Currently soil moisture reserves are near normal to well above normal across the entire province (see map 3). This bodes well for a good start to the 2017 growing season, providing that this spring is not too wet, and that cooperative weather allows crops to be seeded in a timely manner.

**Additional maps can be found at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps)**

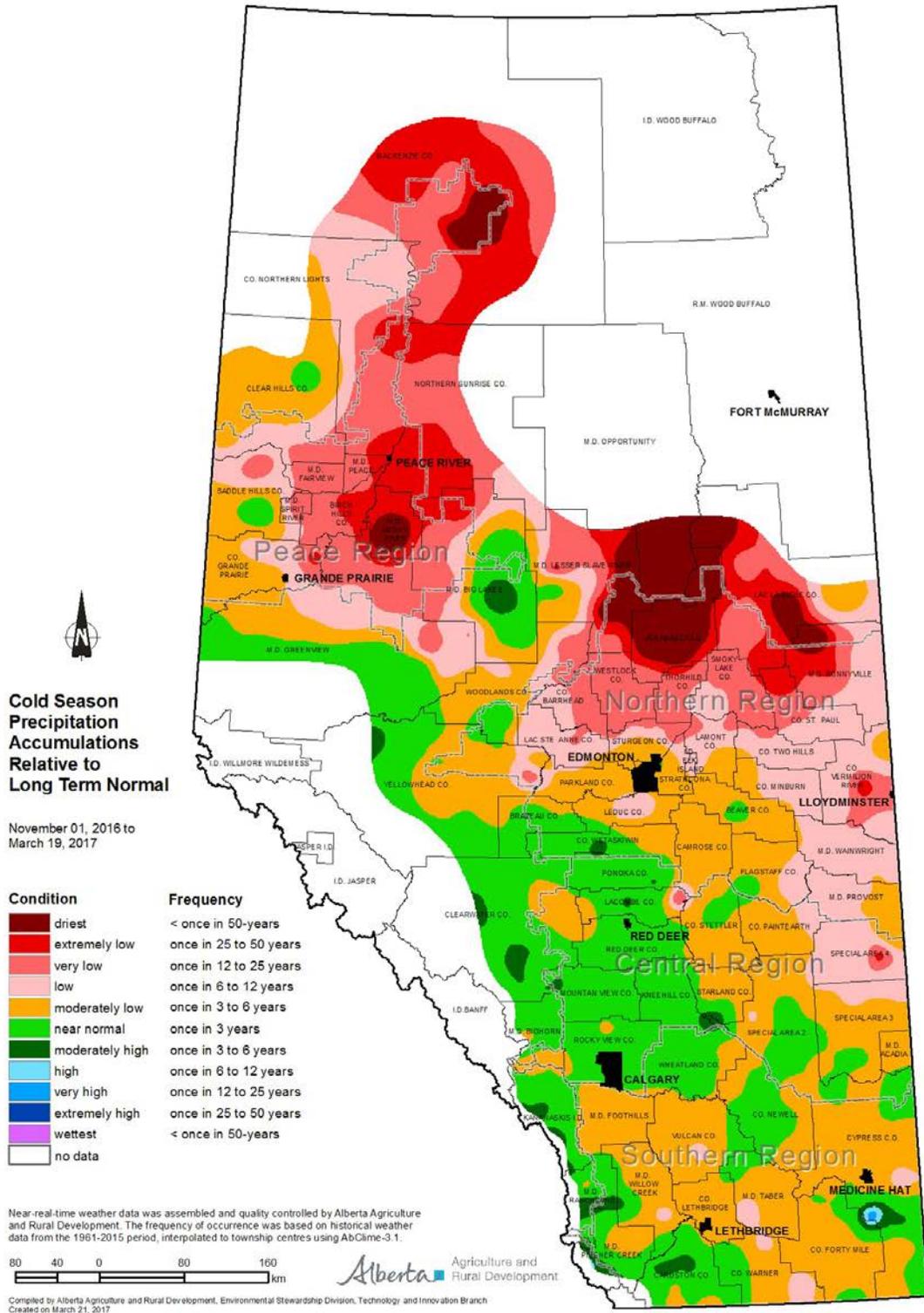
**Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)**

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

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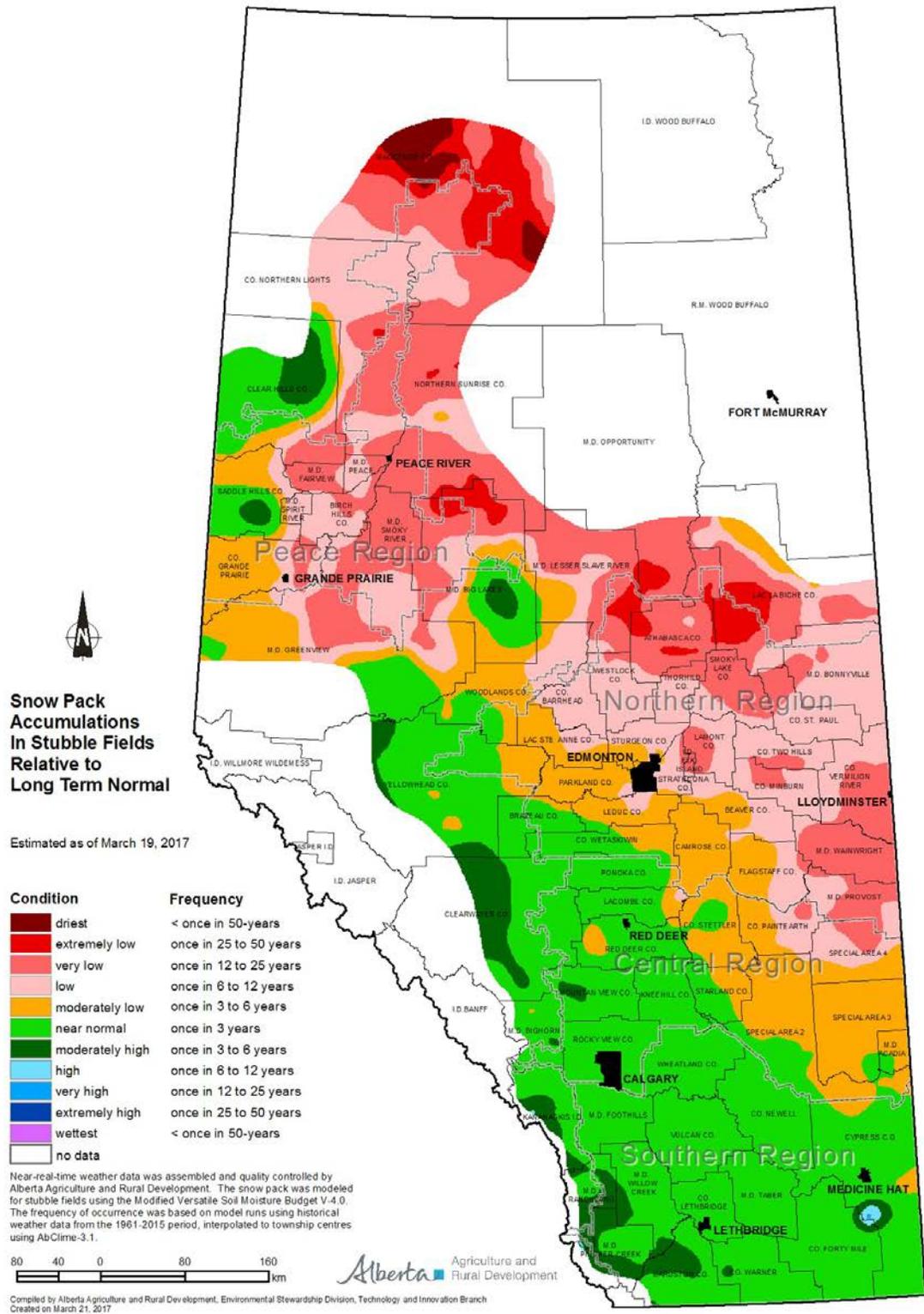
## Map 1



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

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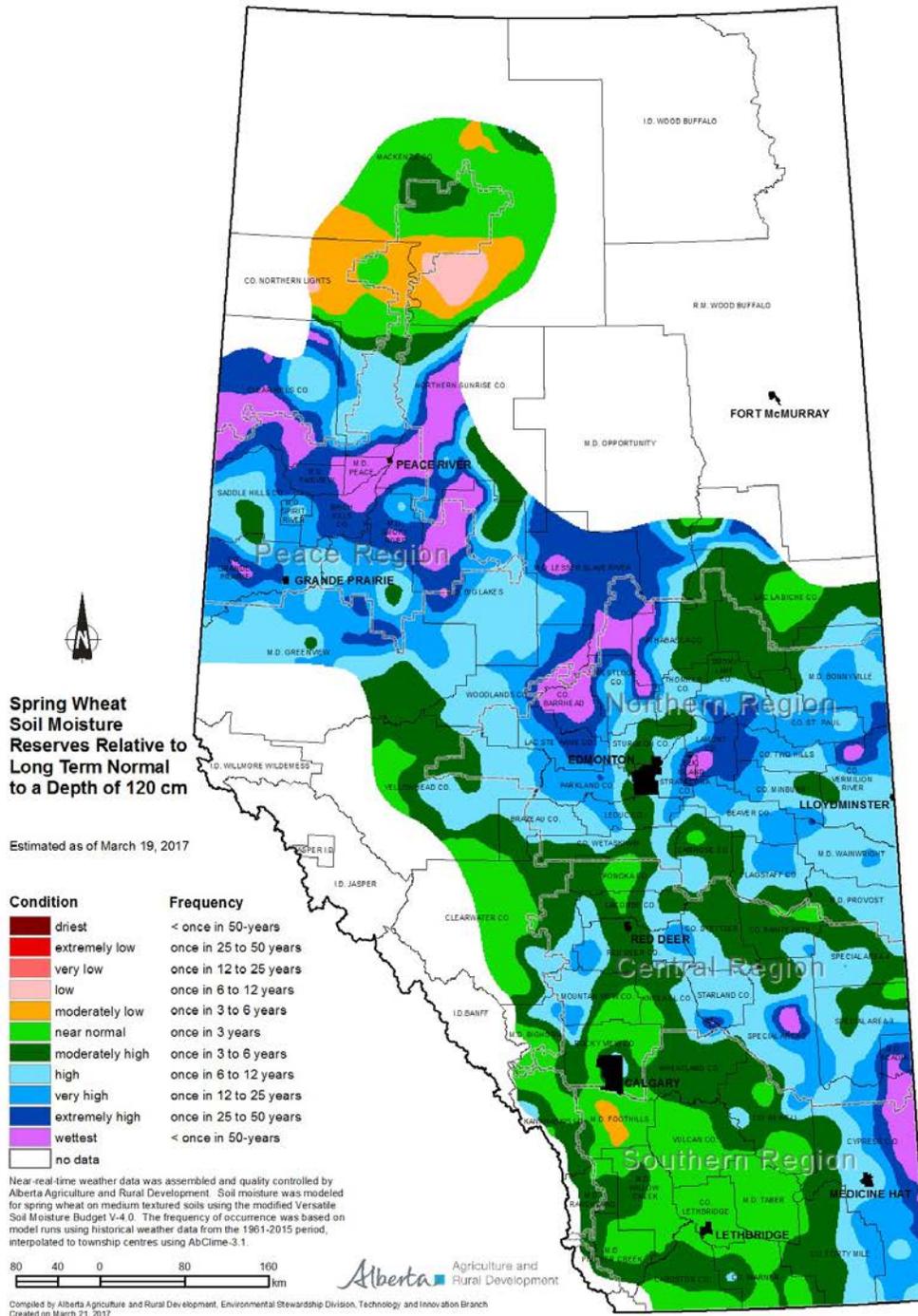
## Map 2



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## Map 3



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