

Moisture Situation Update – October 15, 2018

Synopsis:

Across the province, September and the first half of October were exceptionally cool (**map 1**), with temperatures this low, estimated to occur less than once in 50-years. Along with the cold weather, there was a marked shift from generally dryer than normal conditions many experienced during June, July and August (**map 2**), to at least near normal moisture for most of the province (**map 3**). However, one notable exception exists through a portion of the northern Peace Region, where 1 in 50 –year low precipitation accumulations are depicted. In sharp contrast, some areas between the Yellowhead Highway in the north and the TransCanada Highway in the south have experienced above average accumulations.

Over the past four weeks, much of the recent precipitation fell as snow or as a snow/rain mix, on several different occasions, with few if any agricultural areas escaping at least some temporary snow cover at one time or another.

The first major snowfall event occurred as early as the end of the second week in September, affecting a wide area stretching east to west across the province from as far north as the Grande Prairie, down to at least Red Deer.

A few weeks later, starting on the 27th of September, Calgary received upwards of 40 cm of snow during a major cold snap that brought freezing temperatures province wide ranging from -4°C to -12°C in the early morning hours of October 3rd. By the time this system had passed through, most lands south of the Red Deer, down to the US border had seen least some snow accumulate, only to melt in the following days.

One week later (Oct 7th to 13th) yet another blast of cold arctic air resulted in snow cover across many lands north of Red Deer stretching all the way up through the Peace Region, with a large area west of Lloydminster experiencing upwards of 30 cm of snow.

Finally, beginning this week (Oct 15th) dry and milder air has returned to the province, with 7-day forecasts predicting at least seasonal temperatures for the next week.

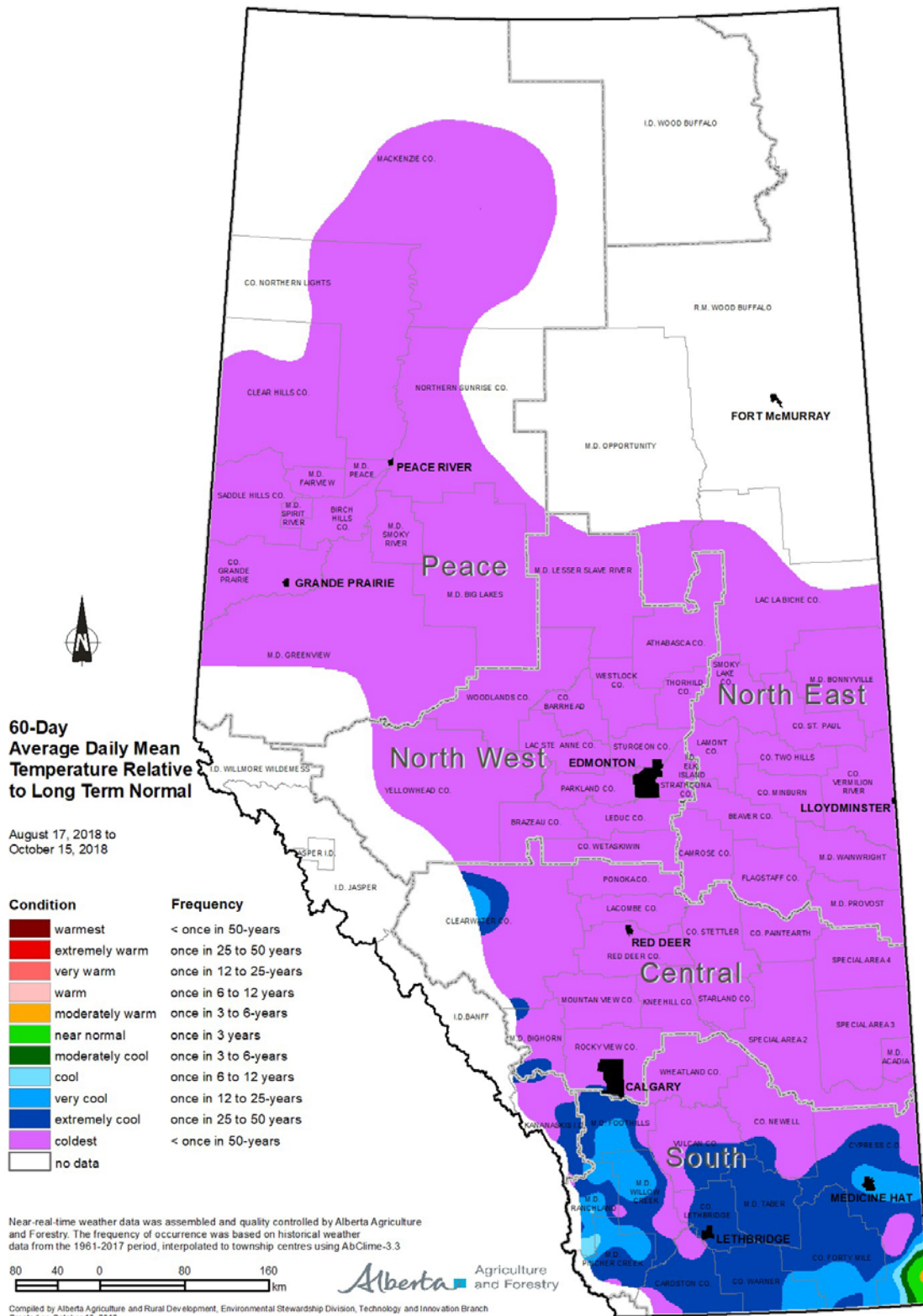
Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

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

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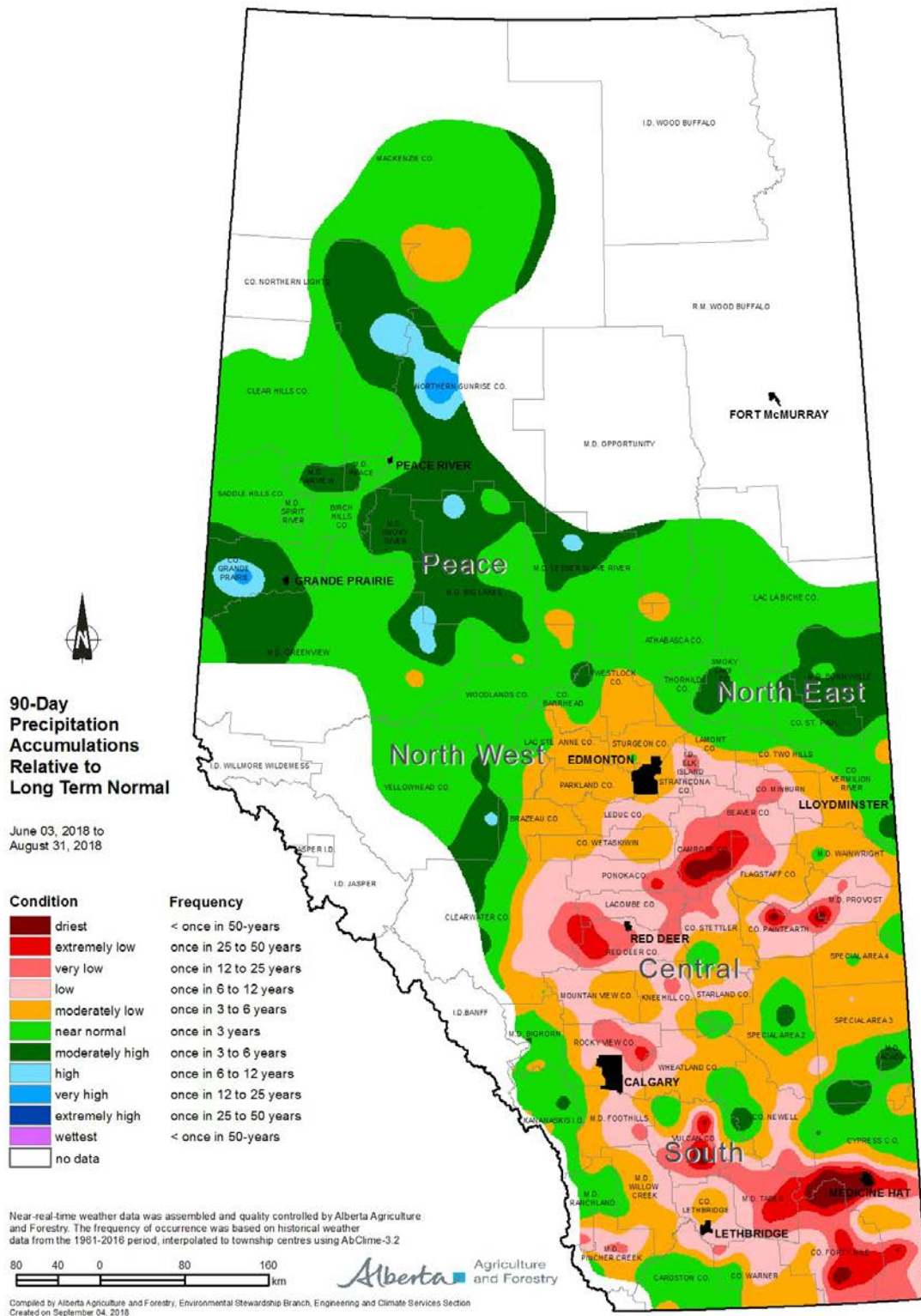
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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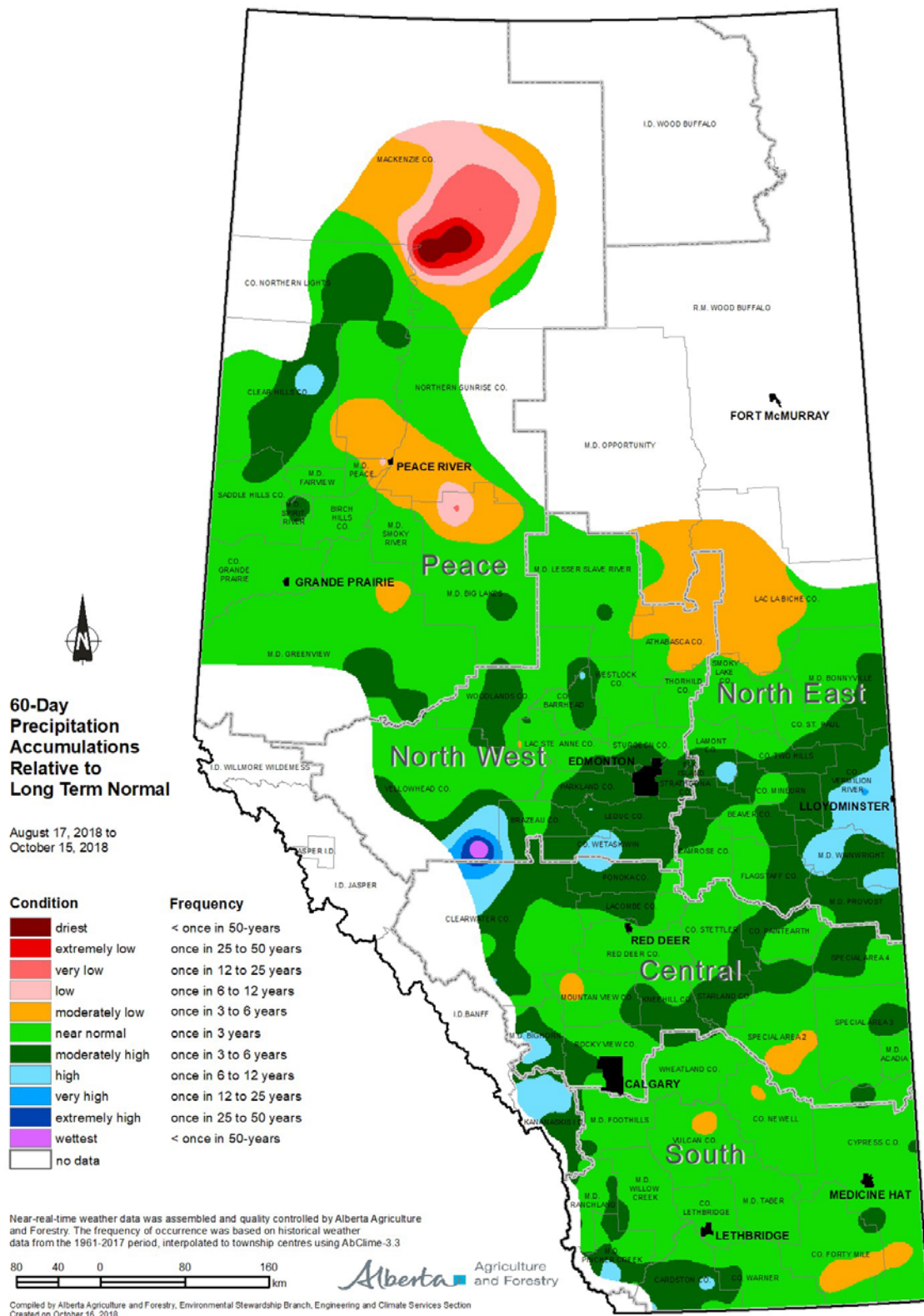
Map 2



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Map 3



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