

A Proposed National Drought Strategy for Canada

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Drought Research Initiative Workshop, January 2007



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Most Costly Natural hazards in Canada

Disaster	Year(s)	Location	Cost (billions 1999\$)
Drought	1980	Prairies	5.8
Freezing Rain	1998	Ontario to New Brunswick	5.4
Drought *	2001/2002+/-	National	5.0
Drought	1988	Prairies	4.1
Drought	1979	Prairies	3.4
Drought	1984	Prairies	1.9
Flood	1998	Saguenay, Quebec	1.7
Flood	1950	Winnipeg, Manitoba	1.1
Drought	1931-38	Prairies	1.0
Drought	1989	Prairies	1.0
Hailstorm	1991	Calgary, Alberta	1.0

Source: An assessment of natural hazards and disasters in Canada: A report for decision-makers, 2004



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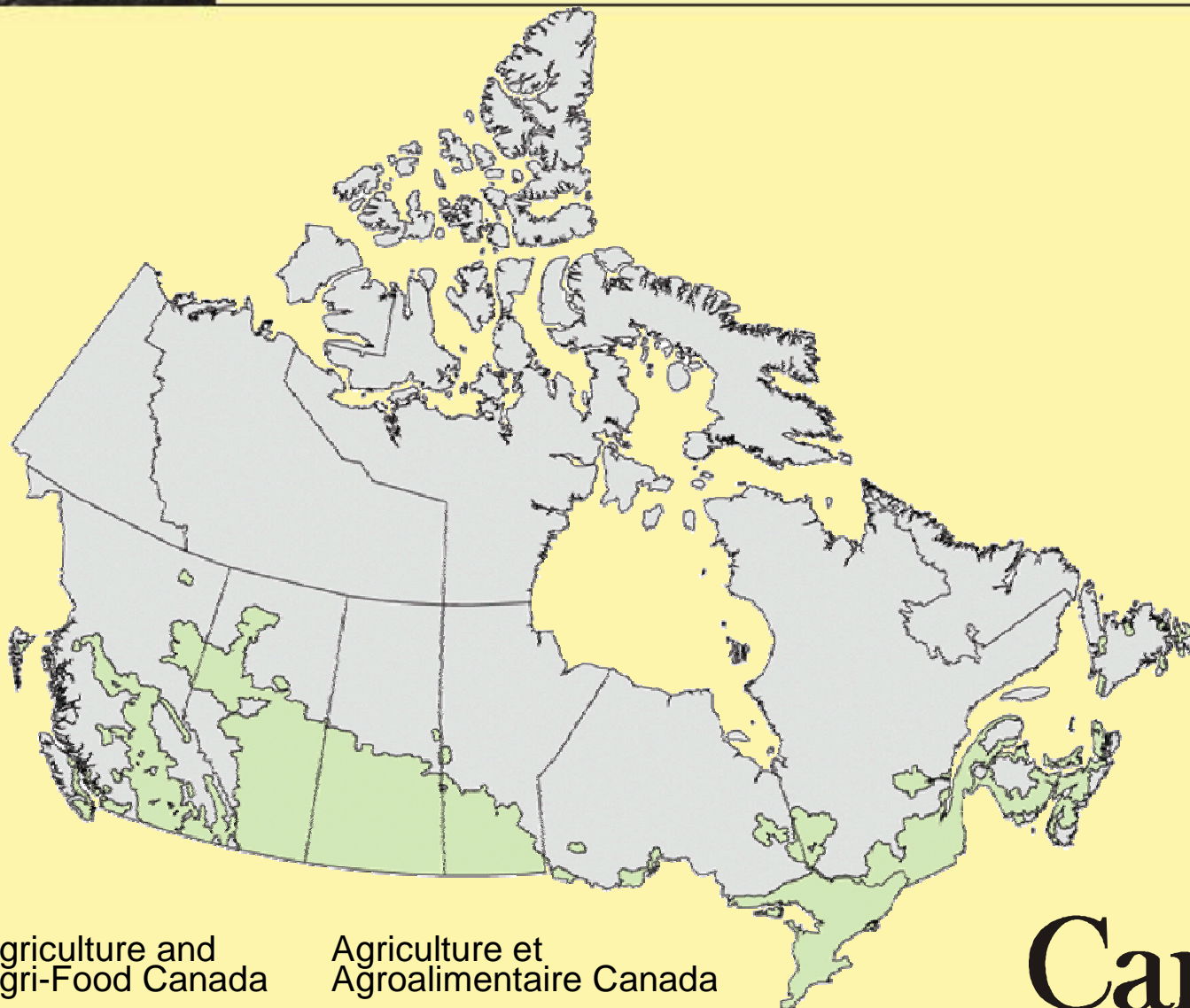
Why a Drought Strategy?

- **No existing national drought strategy for medium- to long-term**
 - Sustain environment & economy
 - Stay competitive
- **Drought is a business risk to be managed (coordinated efforts with provinces to reduce impacts and vulnerability)**
- **Prepare for long-term climate change**
- **Prepare for potential increasing variability (now and in the future)**
- **Provide a planned approach to developing tools to reduce impacts**
 - Build on current activities that work
 - Develop and implement new activities





Focus - Agricultural Sector



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Proposed Components of Canada's National Drought Strategy

- **Drought Research** – Physical, Socio-economic, Policy (e.g. DRI)
- **Drought Monitoring and Reporting** (e.g. NLWIS)
- **Drought Education and Preparedness**
- **Drought Response**

Source: Draft Framework for a National AAFC Drought Strategy, 2004



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A multi-year commitment

- **Background analyses (other jurisdictions; current policies & programs; issues, gaps and needs)**
- **Linkages to AAFC Environment Strategy (also Water, Irrigation, Ag-land, and others)**
- **FPT / Stakeholder advisory group & support**
- **Meetings / Consultations**
- **Consensus for draft strategy**
- **Finalize strategy with AAFC endorsement**



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Current activities

- **Draft Framework for a National AAFC Drought Strategy (2004)**
- **Drought Watch web site**
- **Tax Deferral analysis and recommendations**
- **NWSEP and other programs**
- **Climate-Related Production Risk Committee**
- **Report: A review of drought planning in Canada and abroad (2006)**
- **Staff hire (2006)**



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Upcoming activities for 2007

- **Project plan for Executive**
- **Report: Inventory and analysis of current federal, provincial and selected international policies and assistance programs related to drought and water scarcity**
- **Advisory committee formalization and meeting**



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Conclusion

A National Drought Strategy, in conjunction with Water, Ag-Land, and Irrigation Strategies will help maintain a competitive, sustainable agriculture economy by:

- **Monitoring, developing and distributing information resources;**
- **Supporting research needs;**
- **Helping in preparedness, mitigation and adaptation activities;**
- **Improving response and safety nets;**
- **Managing water resources quality and quantity.**



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Acknowledgements

Harvey Hill, PFRA
Brian Abrahamson, PFRA (retired)



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