A Proposed National Drought Strategy for Canada



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Drought Research Initiative Workshop, January 2007







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



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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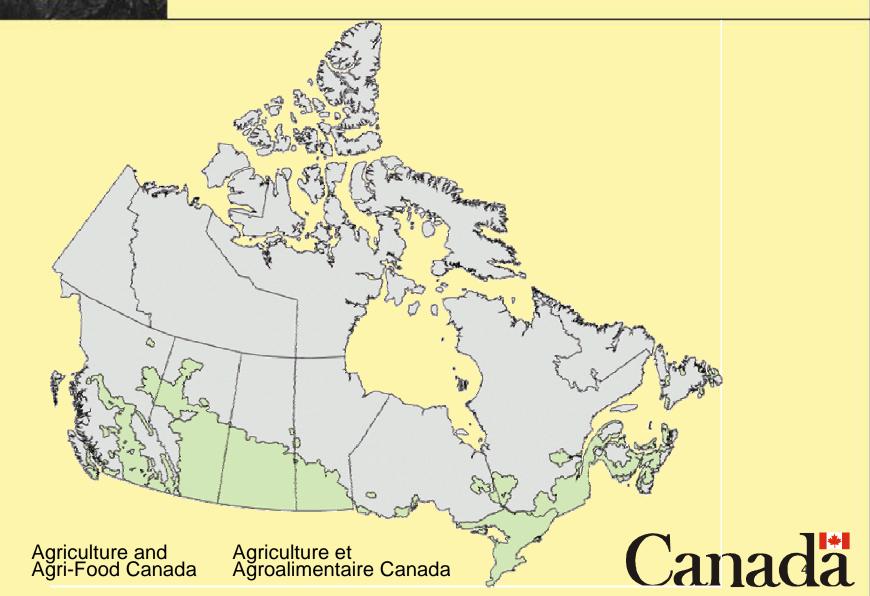


Why a Drought Strategy?

- No existing national drought strategy for mediumto 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





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







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







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)







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







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.







Acknowledgements

Harvey Hill, PFRA **Brian Abrahamson, PFRA (retired)**



