# Linking “Precipitation Extremes” with CCME

## (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment)

E Wheaton, U of S, with J Fraser, M Greenwood, M Krohn, CCME

For Climate-related Precipitation Extremes Project Meeting

Regina, SK, March 26 2019

# Background and Issues

- CCME is the “primary minister-led intergovernmental forum for collective action on environmental issues of national and international concern” (CCME website)
- CCME is focused on several areas, including **water** and **climate** change
- The **water priorities** are addressed by the Water Management Committee
- One priority is to reduce climate change **impacts on water systems** through adaptive strategies

# Update

- **Scott** MacRitchie (WMC) was our first contact. He had conference calls and information exchanges with Ron Stewart and Elaine Wheaton. Thanks to Scott!
- Scott retired recently and Megan Krohn, Programs Coordinator, CCME asked the WMC about this linkage
- Jenny Fraser (BC Environment and Climate Change) and Mark Greenwood (NS Environment) both offered to be **contacts**
- **Jenny's** interests are in policy related to water scarcity, seasonal and inter-annual blue water supply variability. She coordinates with colleagues in flood management
- **Mark's** interests are in improving the provincial programs related to surface water, including water allocation, drought, flooding, water control structures, and the hydrometric network

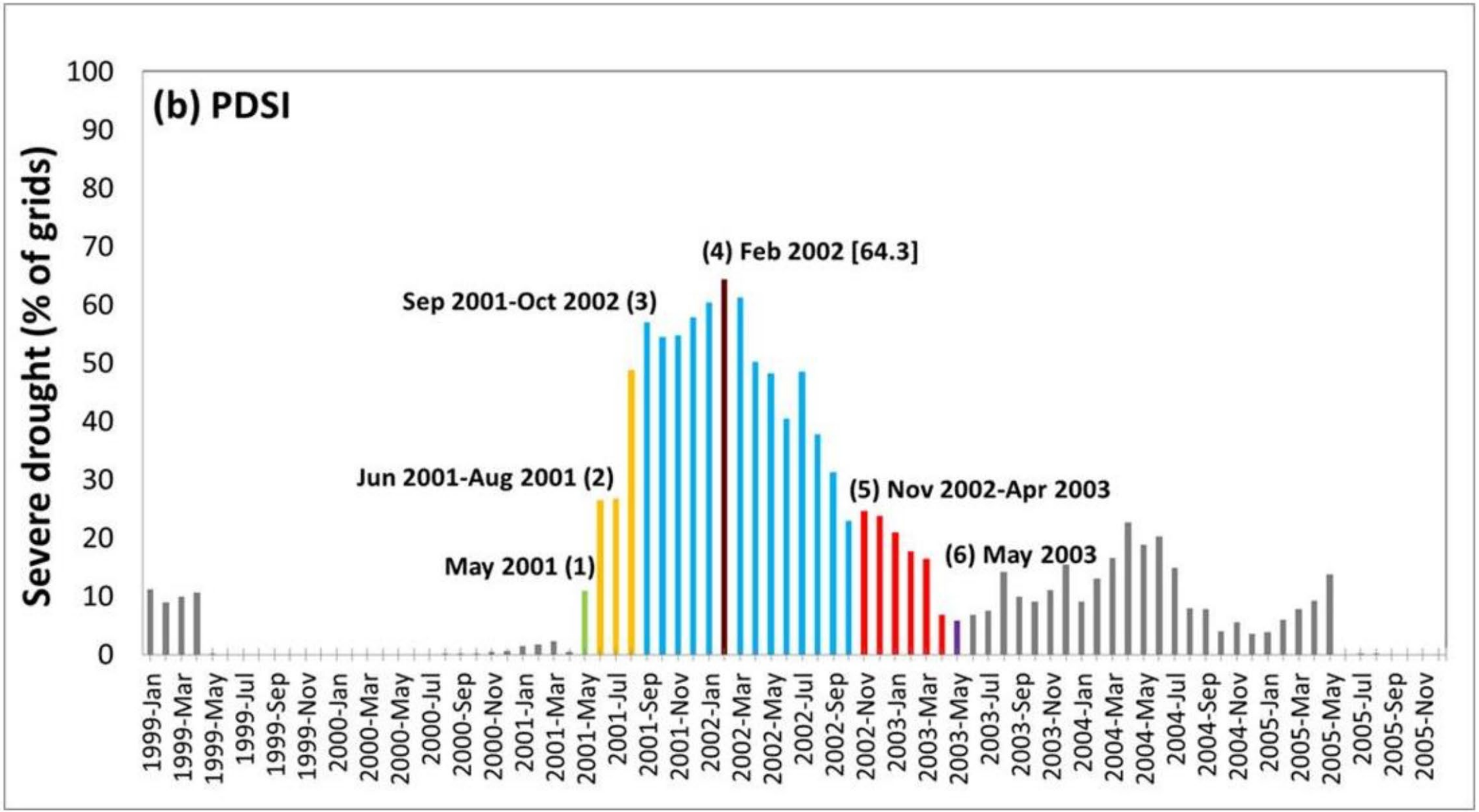
# Water Priorities of CCME (CCME website)

- Reduce climate change impacts on water systems, and protect and restore aquatic ecosystems through adaptive strategies
- Engage more Canadians in the shared responsibility of protecting aquatic ecosystems and water management
- Improve water quality and water quantity management to protect ecosystem health and water uses
- Current emphasis: how climate change and variability can be addressed when developing flood and drought preparedness plans and strategies

# Opportunites Include

- Keeping informed and providing feedback
- Further information exchange
- Develop further opportunities, e.g., re flood and drought

# Early 2000s Drought



# Major Prairie Drought Characteristics

| *Drought* | *Onset* | *Peak* | *Duration (Months)* | *Core* | *Initiation/Expansion* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1999-2005** | May 2001 | Feb. 2002<br>64.3% | 25 | AB, SK | Montana: Northward |
| **1917-1919** | Jun 1918 | Aug. 1919<br>75.1% | 19 | AB, SK | Alberta: Southeastward |
| **1928-1930** | Dec 1928 | Oct. 1929<br>64.8% | 22 | AB, SK, MB | N. Prairies: Southward |
| **1930-1932** | Jan 1931 | Jul 1931<br>70.8% | 19 | AB, SK | Manitoba: Southwestward |
| **1936-1938** | Jul 1936 | Aug 1937<br>62.2% | 19 | SK | Dakotas: Northwestward |
| **1960-1962** | Mar 1961 | Aug 1961<br>76.9% | 23 | SK, MB | Montana: Northeastward |
| **1988-1989** | Jan 1988 | Jul 1988<br>71.0% | 22 | SK, MB | N. Dakota: Northward |