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OUTLOOK FOR THE FORMATION OF ICE IN THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY & LAKE ERIE ISSUED BY CANADIAN ICE SERVICE

prepared for

The Saint-Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

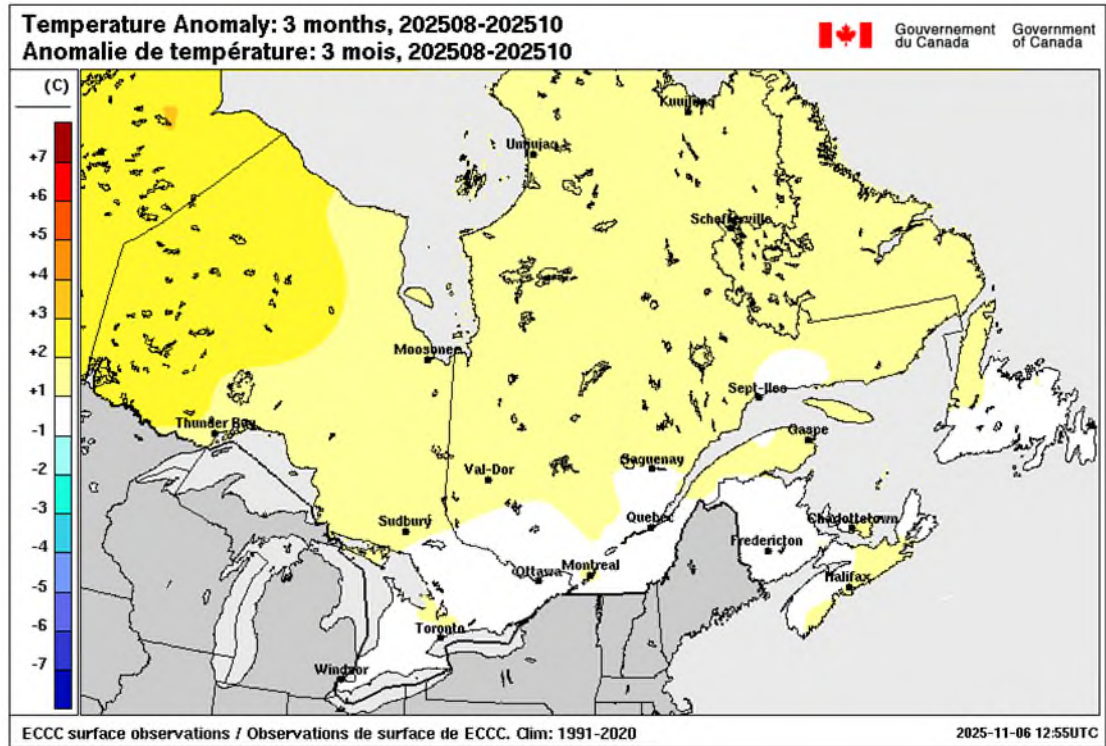
12th of November 2025



Canada 

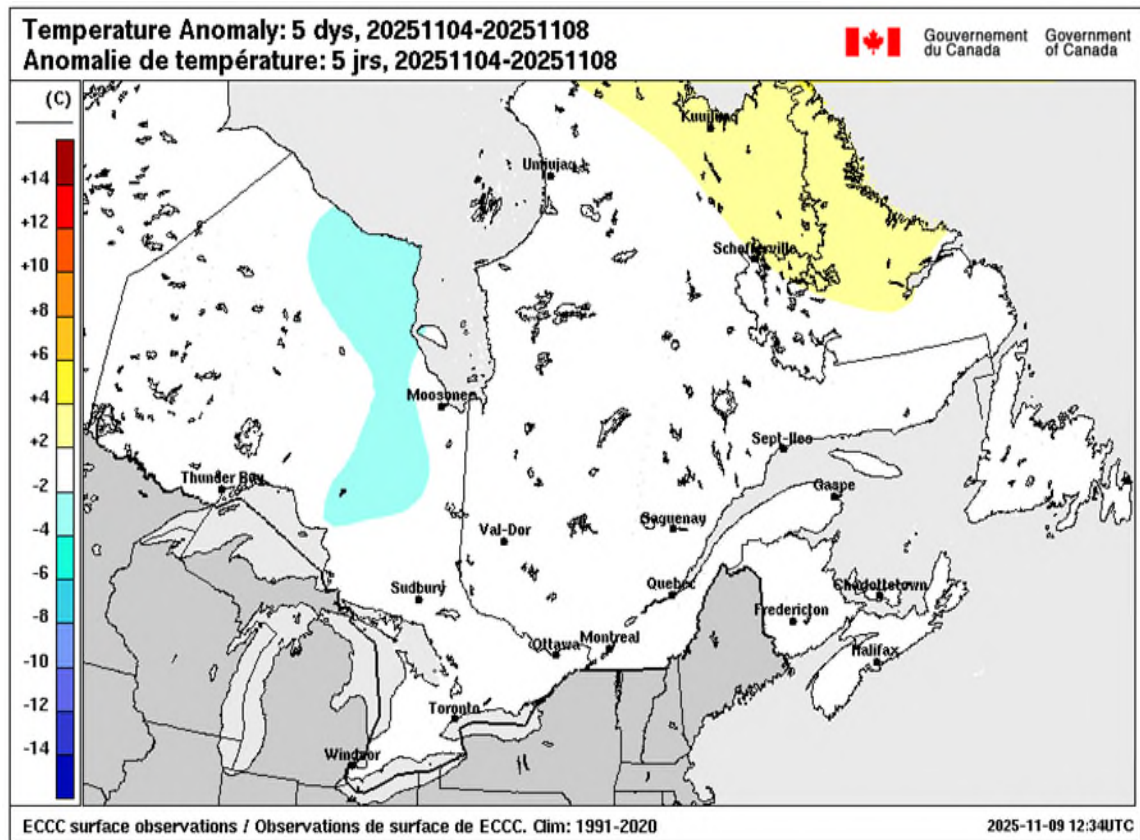
Temperatures this summer and fall

August, September, October Temperature Anomaly



Air temperatures during the late summer and early fall from August to October, have been near normal over the area of the Seaway..

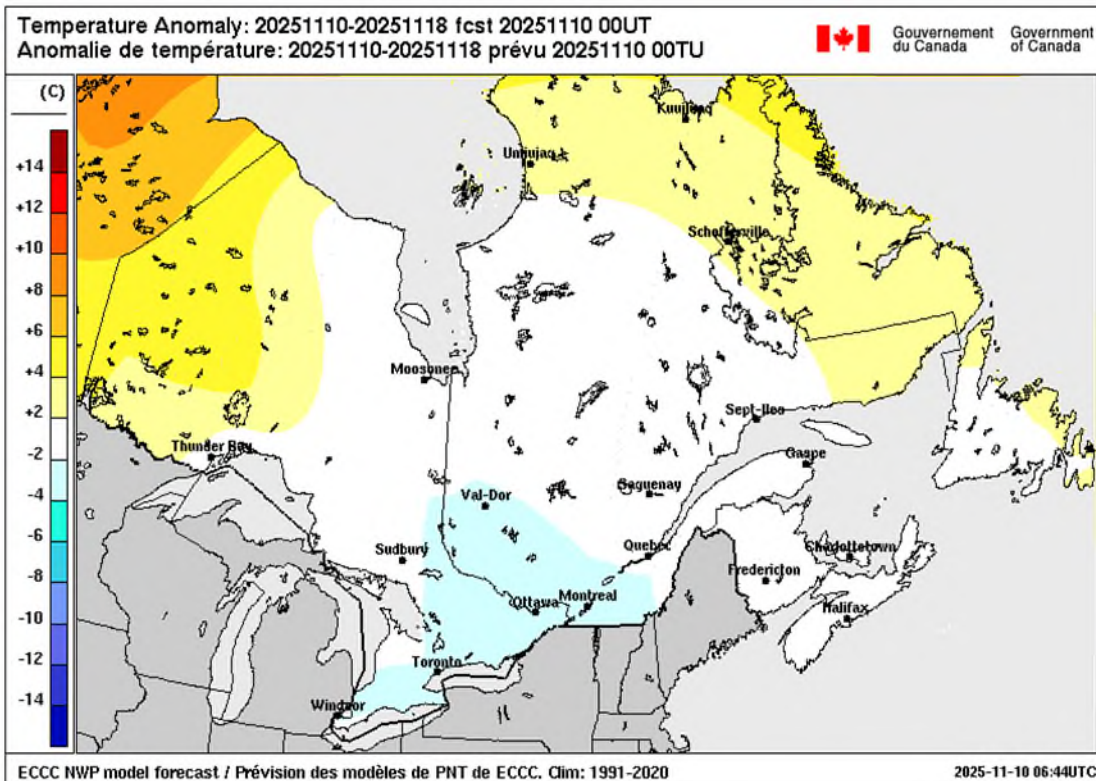
Temperature anomaly over last 10 days



Air temperatures during the first week 5 days of November have also been normal to slightly below normal with a temperature anomaly of 1 °C below the normal temperature for the period.

Temperature anomaly forecast for next 7 days

Average air temperatures of 2 °C to 4 °C below normal are forecast over the Seaway area over the next 8 days, from November 10th to the 18th.



Current water temperatures at stations:

Surface water temperatures along the Seaway are near or slightly below normal.

Station	Date	Temperature	10-year Normal	Anomaly
St. Lambert Lock	10 Nov	7.8 °C	9.2 °C	-1.4°C
St. Louis Bridge	10 Nov	9.4°C	10.6 °C	-1.2°C
Cornwall	10 Nov	9.6°C	11.6 °C	-2.0°C
Iroquois Lock	10 Nov	10.3 °C	11.6 °C	-1.3°C
Kingston	10 Nov	10.5 °C	11.5 °C	-1.0°C
Port Colborne	10 Nov	10.9 °C	10.5 °C	+0.4 °C
Port Weller	10 Nov	12.0°C	12.4 °C	-0.4°C

This fall saw record warm surface water temperatures over the Great Lakes with all lakes about 2-3 °C warmer than long-term average on Oct 19th, 2025.

	Superior	Michigan	Huron	Erie	Ontario
Average	10.3 °C	13.9 °C	13.3 °C	16.4 °C	14.6 °C
This year	12.5 °C	16.9 °C	15.7 °C	18.9 °C	17.1 °C
Warmer by	+2.2 °C	+3.0 °C	+2.4 °C	+2.5 °C	+2.5 °C

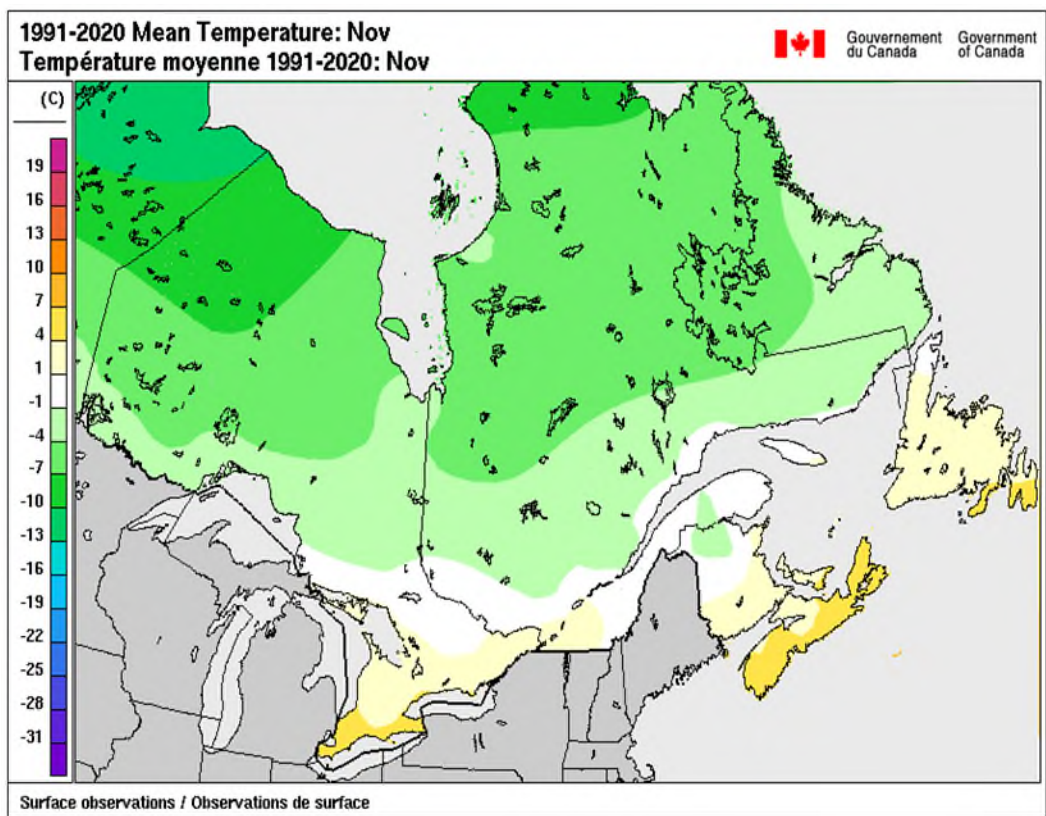
However, on November 9th the eastern lakes were only 1-2 °C warmer than the long-term average.

	Huron	Erie	Ontario	St Claire
Average	9.5 °C	11.8 °C	10.2 °C	9.4 °C
This year	11.8 °C	12.8 °C	11.2 °C	10.2 °C
Anomaly	2.3 °C	1.0 °C	1.0 °C	0.8 °C

* Until early January the risk of lake enhanced snow events in the lee of the lakes exists.

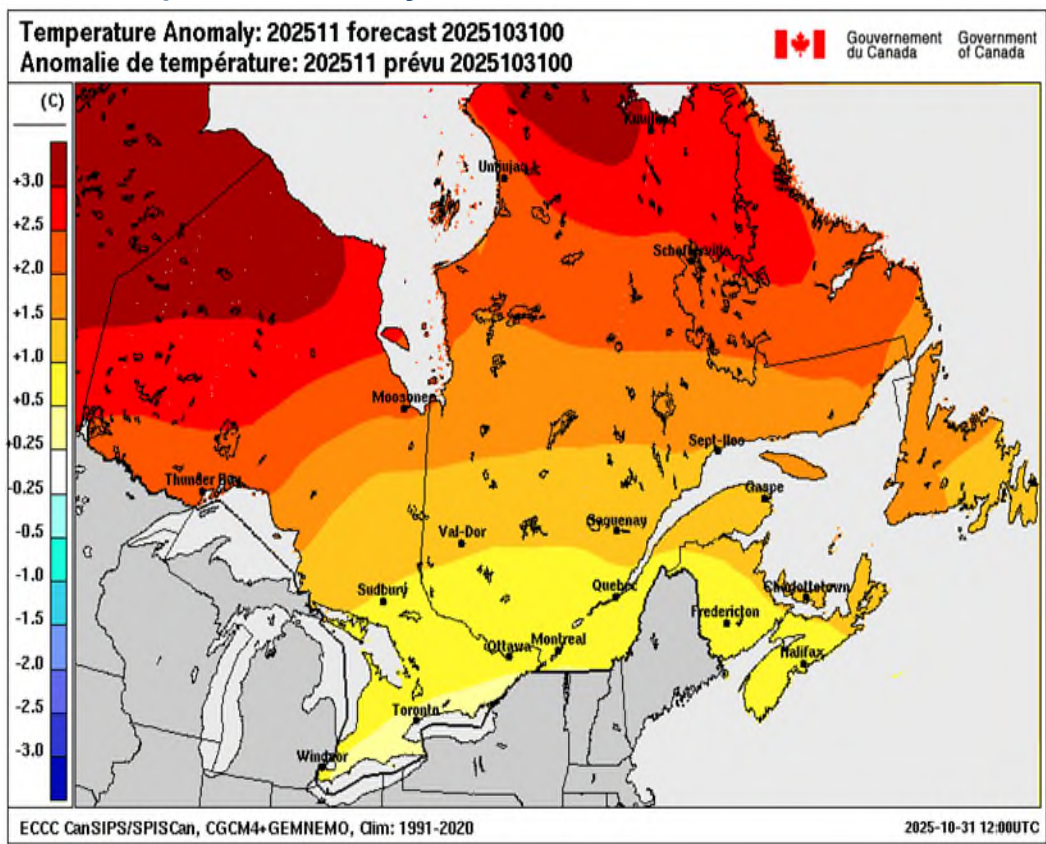
Temperature forecast this winter

Monthly average November temperature 1991 - 2020



The normal temperature over the Seaway in November usually range from 4 °C near western Lake Erie to near 0 °C near Montreal.

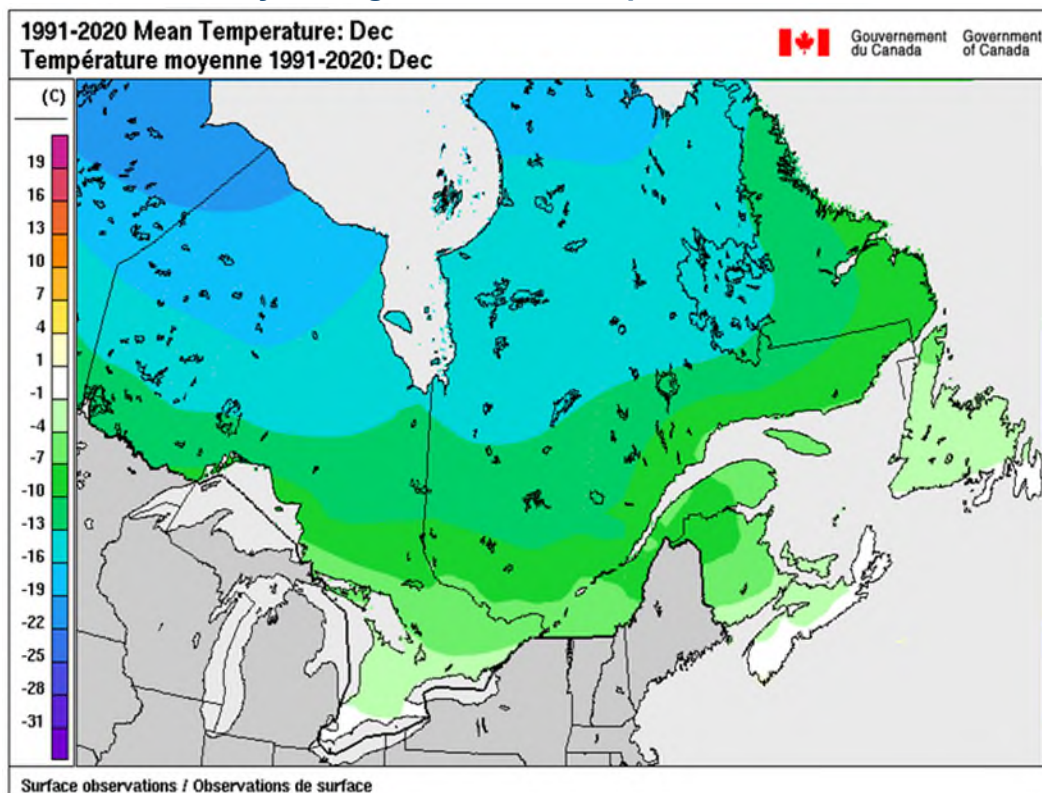
Temperature anomaly Forecast for November 2025



Temperatures in November are forecast to average near normal for the month. The temperature anomaly forecast for November is only 0.25 to 0.5 °C warmer than normal.

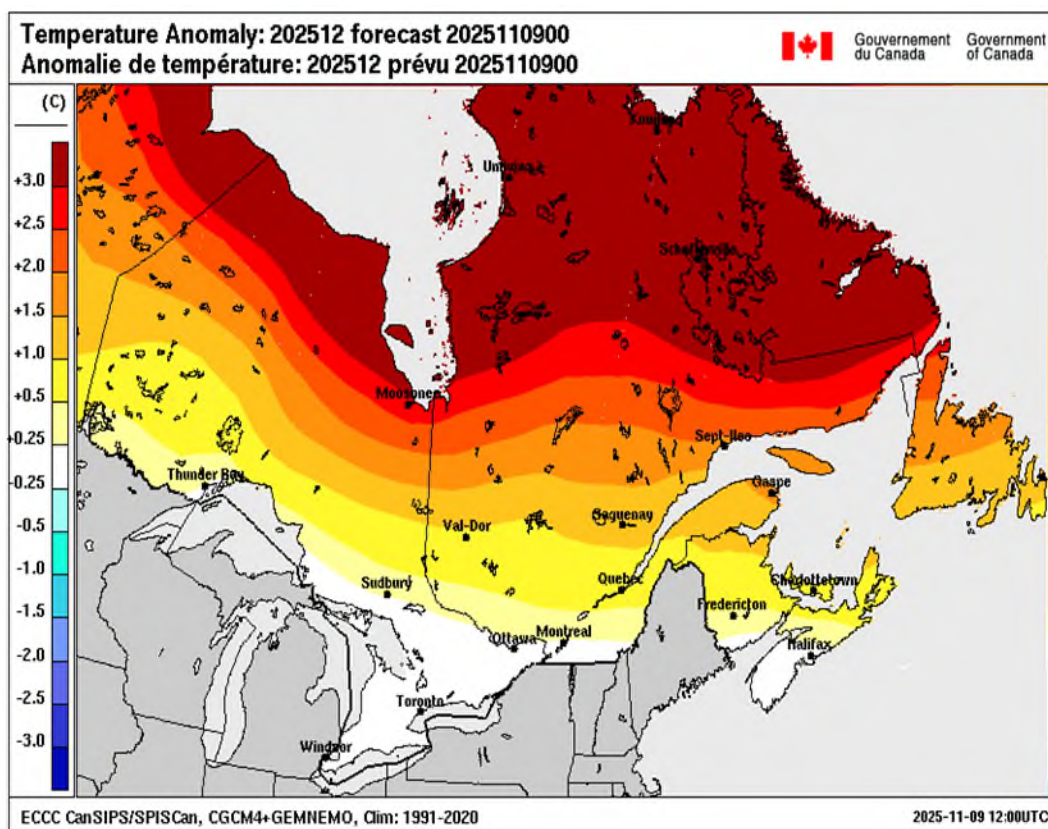
As the start to November was a few degrees colder than normal, the last two weeks of November are therefore expected to be a few degrees warmer than normal.

Monthly average December temperature 1991 - 2020



Normal temperature over the Seaway in December usually range from 0 °C near western Lake Erie to near -7 °C near Montreal.

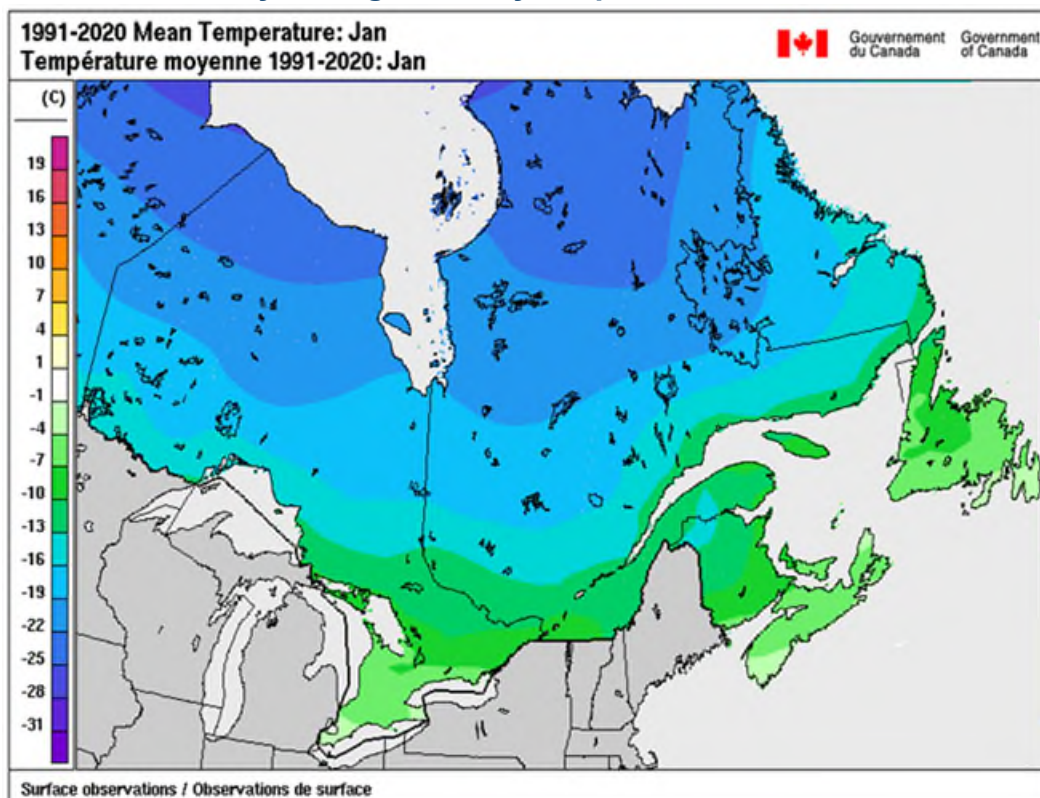
Temperature anomaly Forecast for December 2025



Temperature is no temperature anomaly forecast for December.

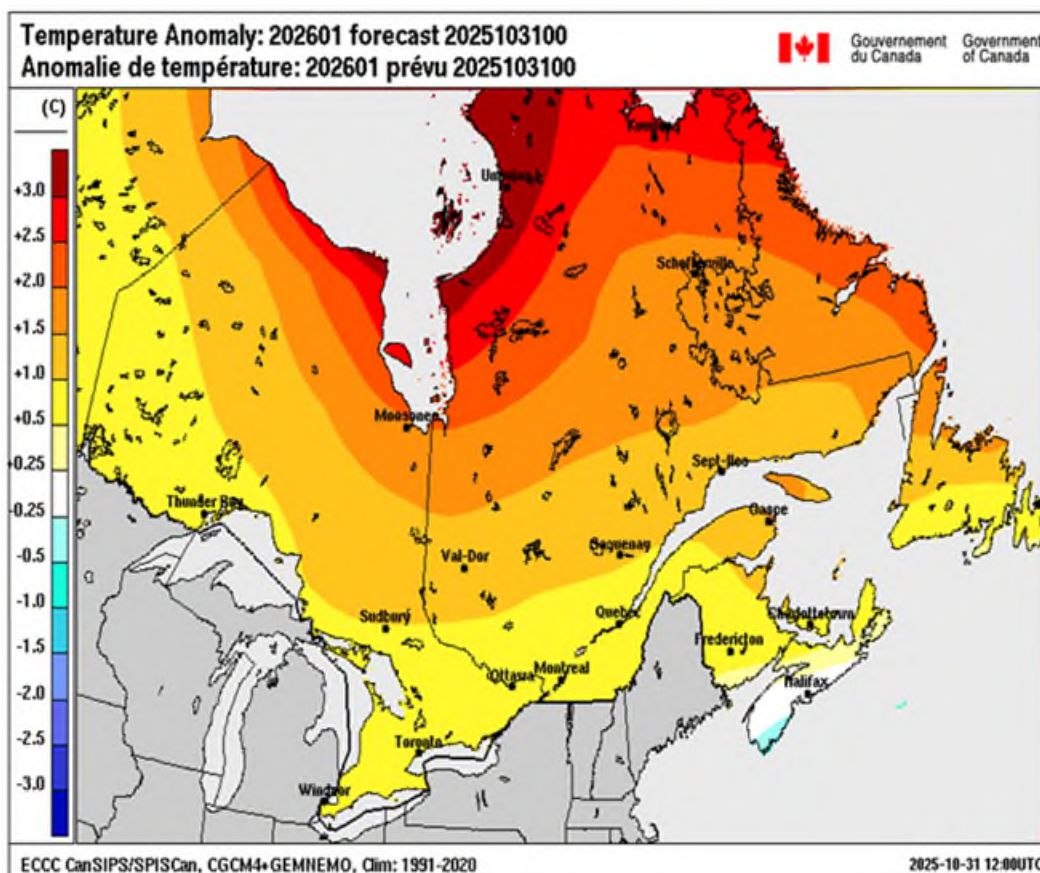
December is forecast to experience seasonally normal temperatures over the area of the Seaway.

Monthly average January temperature 1991 - 2020



Normal temperature over the Seaway in December usually range from -4 °C near western Lake Erie to near -12 °C near Montreal.

Temperature anomaly Forecast for January 2026



A temperature anomaly of only 0.5 °C is forecast for January 2026.

This is not significant, and we can expect near normal temperatures for January as well.

The following table lists the average dates of occurrence of the first permanent ice, the complete freeze-over and the forecast trend for 2024/25.

Station	First permanent ice	Complete Freeze Over	Forecast
St. Lambert Lock	12 Dec	24 Dec	Near normal
Upper Beauharnois	15 Dec	28 Dec	Near normal
Cornwall (St Louis Bridge)	26 Dec	6 Jan	1-3 days later
Iroquois Lock	25 Dec	5 Jan	1-3 days later
Port Weller	28 Dec	11 Jan	Near normal

In Summary

- Water temperatures in the Great Lakes were warm this year.
- The southern Great Lakes remain 1-2 °C warmer than normal.
- Water temperature at locks however are near or slightly below normal.
- Air Temperatures are expected to average to near normal over the period.

Thus, with normal temperatures and near normal water temperatures we expect

Near normal freeze-up expected this year

The first ice should start to form along the shores in Western Basin of Lake Erie and in Lake St Clair during the first week of January.

The St Lawrence near Kingston should see its first ice along the shores after the first week of January. This ice will be mainly along the shores.

Not much ice growth beyond the shores is expected until after mid-January.

The ice in western Lake Erie and Lake St Claire will increase in concentration covering large parts of the Western Basin during the third week of January.

The St Lawrence near Kingston should be mainly ice covered at 7-8 tenths after the third week of January.

Normal lake ice conditions in addition to a normal freeze-up period expected for the Seaway this winter.

THE NEXT ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND LAKE ERIE FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON MONDAY DECEMBER 1st, 2025.

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