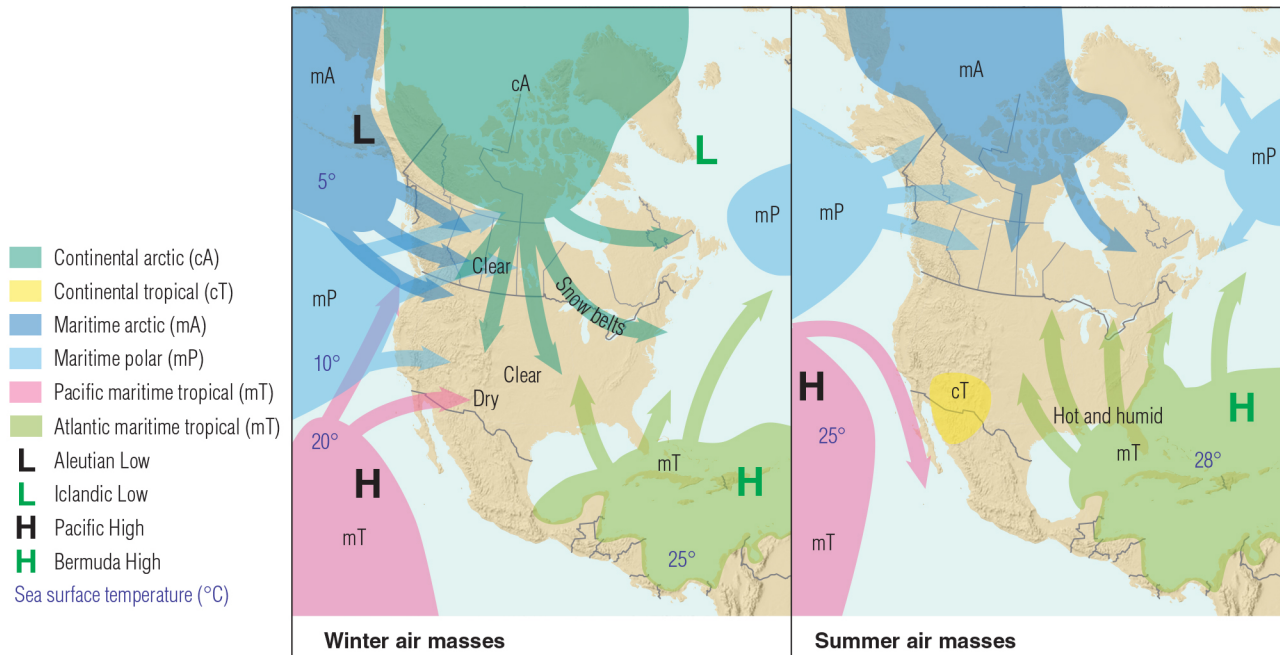


▼ Table 11.1 Air Masses and Their Characteristics

Air mass temperature (T) and dew point (T_d) ranges near their source regions for applicable season(s). Sea surface temperature (SST) ranges are given for maritime air masses.

SOURCE REGION (SYMBOL & CHARACTERISTICS)	ARCTIC (A)	POLAR (P)	TROPICAL (T)
CONTINENTAL (c) <i>land</i>	*Continental Arctic (cA) extremely cold, dry stable; ice- and snow-covered surfaces: T -40°C to -15°C T_d -50°C to -20°C	Continental Polar (cP) cold, dry, stable: T -20°C to 0°C T_d -30°C to 0°C	Continental Tropical (cT) hot, dry, stable air aloft; unstable surface air: T 25°C to 40°C T_d $<10^{\circ}\text{C}$
MARITIME (m) <i>water</i>	*Maritime Arctic (mA) cold, moist, unstable winter: T -10°C to 5°C summer: T 5°C to 22°C T_d 0°C to 6°C SST 0°C to 5°C	*Maritime Polar (mP) cool, moist, unstable winter: T 5°C to 15°C summer: T 10°C to 26°C T_d 2°C to 10°C SST 5°C to 15°C	*Maritime Tropical (mT) warm, moist; usually unstable: T 21°C to 32°C T_d 10°C to 27°C SST 20°C to 30°C

*Air masses commonly affecting Canada.



● **FIGURE 11.2** Air mass source regions and their paths during winter and summer.

Adapted from: D. Phillips, *The Climates of Canada*, Environment Canada, 1990, Pg. 12.