

# February 2021 North American cold wave (Canada)



The February 2021 North American cold wave was an extreme weather event that brought record cold temperatures to a significant portion of Canada, the United States and parts of northern Mexico during the first half of February 2021. The cold was caused by a southern migration of the polar vortex, likely caused by a sudden stratospheric warming event that occurred the prior month. On 7 February 2021 Uranium City, Saskatchewan, equaled their all time coldest temperature of  $-48.9\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-56.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) previously recorded on 15 January 1974. In Winnipeg, Manitoba, the high temperature did not rise above  $-20.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-4.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for 9 consecutive days, the longest period since 1996. On 7 February 2021, the International Airport weather station in Edmonton, Alberta, recorded a low temperature of  $-43.6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-46.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) with two consecutive lows below  $-40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).