

# Rio Tinto Alcan is singled out

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Rio Tinto Alcan is severely blamed for the death of a young woman at one of her dams in Alma last year. On June 14, 2008, Victoria Cunningham was fishing at this roadblock when the boat in which she and her friends were capsized. The comrades of the 19-year-old girl managed to get to the shore, but she was dragged by the current.

The coroner, Luc Malouin, in charge of this case, concluded that the death of Victoria Cunningham could have been avoided if she had been able to restrain herself effectively. He asked the smelter to replace all the yellow booms on its dams in Quebec with a model

equipped with rope, which he considers much safer.

According to him, not only are these booms ineffective, but they can also be dangerous. It is precisely this barrier, he believes, that capsized the boat of the girl.

"In times of flood, the booms are almost submerged by water and are very dangerous. They create a real eddy, and a canoe, a kayak or a small motorboat can be driven by the force of the current and reverse as happened in this case," he said.

The coroner also considers that the poster intended to warn the citizens of the danger is useless.

"This sign does not play its role of prevention, because it is located too close to the boom and on one side of the river. It should be much further upstream to prevent danger, and we should find one on each side of the river," he said.