



July 21, 2009 / Updated at 8:35 am



Death of Victoria Cunningham: RTA blamed

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The Daily

Coroner Luc Malouin blames the multinational Rio Tinto Alcan for the death of young Victoria Cunningham, who died drowning at one of the company's checkpoints in Alma.

In his report, which was made public yesterday, the Malouin coroner believes that the death of the 19-year-old woman could have been avoided. If the victim, who was fishing at the time of the tragedy, had been able to hold on to the boom, she could have been spared.

Thus, the yellow booms currently installed are totally useless according to the coroner. He told Radio-Canada that they were even dangerous because they could capsize a boat and not help his occupants. The coroner suggests the establishment of booms with cables, which could allow people in distress to grab hold of it.