**Bullying case at OC Transpo**

Pierre Lebrun was a victim of coworkers’ harassment at OC Transpo, a public transit service in Ottawa. His stuttering made him an easy target. Lebrun was picked on not just by one bully but by a whole group (mobbed) by his coworkers. What’s worse, management at OC Transpo, though aware Lebrun was being harassed, let it go on. One day, Lebrun snapped. He hit one of his bullies – a reaction hardly surprising from someone with a limited ability to defend himself verbally. For his act of self defense, Lebrun was fired.

The union protested, claiming management should not fire him because he was disabled, and also arguing that Lebrun’s punishment was far too grave for the crime. Lebrun was given his job back, but the conditions under which this happened exacerbated an already tense situation.

With no recognition of the harassment he had suffered, Lebrun was forced to apologize to his bully. As if this was not enough humiliation, he was required to take anger management classes. Now Lebrun had his job back and his bullies had carte blanche to continue harassing him.

After serving the company for 13 years, Pierre Lebrun returned to OC Transpo on April 6, 1999, and killed 4 workers and himself. His suicide note listed people who had harassed him. His mother told the local paper “He said a group of people were harassing him… That’s why he went there, to kill the people who harassed him”.