Lesson Activity 1 Lesson: Bea Zucco

**Backgrounder**

Bea Zucco was a New Westminster mother who fought to achieve justice for her family after her husband's struggle with a work-related illness and the Workers Compensation insurance program, and ultimately the BC Government.  Zucco's husband developed silicosis after years of mining but he and the family were denied full compensation by the Workmen's Compensation Board as a result of government policy and WCB practices.  After appealing the WCBs decisions, Bea Zucco engaged in a series of protests to raise awareness to her claim and others like it.  From picketing WCB offices, staging a sit down protest with her children at the BC Legislature, and taking her campaign on the road with her “Crusade Car for Silicosis”, Zucco stood up for the rights of injured workers and their families.  While Zucco ultimately won her battle, that was not before her husband died and she and her children had been evicted from the family home.

Zucco's story raises important questions about the effect of work-related injuries and illness on families and communities, the effectiveness of Workers Compensation insurance programs, and how individuals can affect a change in government policy.

**Instructions: Watch the vignette and answer the questions the best you can during or after the film.  Then discuss your responses with a small group.  Be prepared to share comments with the class.**

1. Is Bea Zucco “extraordinary”?
2. Would you have done what Bea Zucco did?  What would you have done differently, and why?
3. What do you think made the most difference in changing government policy?
4. Consider Bea Zucco's comments at the end of the vignette. How does she feel about the WCB at the end of her campaign?  What are your thoughts on her comments?
5. Was justice achieved?
6. Did Workers Compensation meet its mandate?  Explain.

For additional videos and lessons on the subject of Workplace Safety visit the Labour Heritage Centre’s Lesson resource page for additional lesson materials. Featured articles are on Asbestos in the workplace, the Babine Lake Sawmill fire, the Westray Coal Mines disaster and an additional link to the Day of Mourning resources to commemorate workers killed on the job which includes a link to the WorkSafe BC video on Matthew Bowcott, a young worker badly burned at his restaurant job. Ten additional videos are also found in the [History of Health and Safety in BC section.](http://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/historyhealthsafetybc)

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