



Bea Zucco

Film Summary: Out of the loss of her husband to an occupational-related illness came one woman's crusade for change.

Curriculum Application:

Social Justice 12, Law 12,
Youth work in trades
11/12 and Work
Experience 11/12

The Essential Questions:

How does Worker's Compensation (WorkSafe BC) benefit workers? How can individuals advocate effectively for changes in workplace safety?

Summary of the Lesson Activities

1. Focus questions for the vignette provides a short lesson option. (15 Minutes)
2. Small group activity/discussion to better understand the role of WorkSafe BC to ensure safe working conditions for workers in British Columbia.
3. Individual or small group activities to understand and evaluate the role Bea Zucco made to achieve change for families of victims of work-place injury or death.

Learning Standards

1. To be able to explain what workplace safety protocols are in place to protect workers in British Columbia.
2. To analyze the role of individual citizens in promoting social justice in Canada.
3. To be aware of how individuals can provide leadership as agents for change in such matters as workplaces safety.
4. Contribute to care of self, others, and community
5. Access information and ideas on workplace safety prior to work placement to determine workplace safety risks
6. Identify, demonstrate, and incorporate provincially legislated safety and site-specific work-site safety procedures while at the work placement.
7. Understand occupational health and safety rights and responsibilities, including trade-specific hazards,

Materials and Resources Provided

- [“Bea Zucco” Episode 3- Working People – A History of Labour in British Columbia](#)
- Lesson Activity 1: Backgrounder and discussion questions.

Additional Suggested Materials

- Worksafe BC
- [Early Years of Workmen’s Compensation in BC 1917-2011](#)
- [On the Line: pages 140-141](#)
- [Day of Mourning: BC Schools Project](#)
- [Lesson Plans: Workplace Health & Safety](#) (Asbestos, Babine Lake and Westray Mines)

Vignette Questions

1. Why did WCB deny the Zucco claim?
2. How did this illness affect the entire family?
3. What methods did Bea Zucco and the family employ to achieve justice?
4. Why did Bea continue her campaign after her husband died?
5. Did the fact that Bea Zucco was a mother affect her activism? Explain.

Lesson Activities

1. Teachers will need to explain that the Workmen’s Compensation Board was changed to its new operational name WorksSafe BC in 2005.
2. Students can read the brief biography (Lesson Activity 1) prior to the viewing of the vignette, Bea Zucco and then proceed to the discussion questions contained in the lesson activity individually or in small groups.

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by Dan Blake

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](#).

BC Labour Heritage Centre <http://www.labourheritagecentre.ca>