

## Still fighting

I have been fighting for injured workers for more than 30 years. I started with an asbestos company as a millwright in 1954.

I began noticing many problems with health and safety. In our plant, we had problems with noise, fumes, chemicals and dust as well as accidents. I decided to get involved with my union's health and safety committee to find out more about the health risks and the laws that are supposed to protect us.

At this time, asbestos companies were hiding medical evidence about the damages of asbestos. With the union, we were in contact with doctors and other unions worldwide.

The people I worked with started to get sick and were dying young. The world discovered what the companies knew all along: asbestos dust kills workers.

We had to fight to get the government to act — to get compensation and proper medical care, to protect the workers and to stop the companies from doing this. I organized a group called the Asbestos Victims Group of Ontario.

The government was forced to call a Royal Commission into the use of asbestos in the workplace. We made the Commission fund the group so we could hire lawyers and do the research that was needed to speak up for injured workers. As a result, the Commission made many good recommendations.

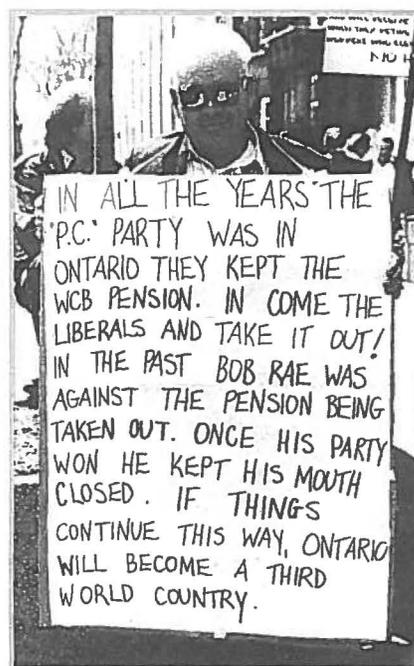
That was 10 years ago and few recommendations have received attention. Meanwhile, most of my co-workers are dead or in the hospital. I have been to more funerals than I can count. Our group is now mostly widows. When the phone rings, too often it is another new widow whose husband died from asbestos even though the WCB said he had only a 10% disability.

I am still pushing Queen's Park (government of Ontario) to finish the job. I go to all the committee hearings. I speak to all the MPPs in my area. I go to the WCB with my co-workers who are still fighting their claims. I have met with every WCB Chairperson and Minister of Labour we have had for 30 years.

My factory shut down and left us all to pay. This is wrong. There are so many injured workers and their families in Ontario. We must all push the government to get justice for injured workers.

### Eddie Cauchi

Injured Worker  
Asbestos Victim



### Pensions for life: a right for workers with lifelong disabilities

I carry this sign (made before the June 1995 provincial election) to show the historical record of the three parties. After Bill 162 nobody gets a pension. We should continue fighting for justice. Even after winning an appeal, the Board continues to give injured workers a hard time. Now that Mike Harris and the Conservatives have been elected, he plans to make it harder by threatening to cut people off permanent pensions.

### Domenico Acierno

Injured Worker

