2 NEWS The Toronto Sun ■ MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018



LEFT TO RIGHT: Adam Melnick, director of government and community relations for Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 95, Gina Godfrey, honourary chair of the Enlightenment fundraiser, Eudice Goldberg, physician and chair of the board of the Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation and Jerry Dias, UNIFOR president, get together for the Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation's annual fundraiser at Sunnybrook Hospital last night. **JACK BOLAND/TORONTO SUN**



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From horror to hope

Mom, son, dedicate themselves to fighting mesothelioma after losing loved one

Sometimes an illness can hit too close to home.

It happened to Dr. Eudice Goldberg.

And now the thought of one more person dying as a result of cancer stemming from asbestos upsets her and her son Michael Konviser.

They lived the horror first hand.

Her husband and his dad Arthur Konviser died as a result of peritoneal mesothelioma in 2005 after a tough, two year battle with the deadly disease that has been responsible for so many deaths in the past 50 years.

When they started the Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation not only did few people know of the disease but even less were doing anything about it.

That has changed.

Thanks to their efforts and that of their volunteers and donors not only have they raised awareness to the cause but always were instrumental in seeing 55 countries ban asbestos, including Canada which has recently announced tighter regulations on the import, sale and broadly defined use of asbestos.

"My friend Eudice has dedi-



cated herself to this cause 100%," said Gina Godfrey, honorary chair of the fundraising event called Enlightenment held Sunday night at Vaughan estates attended by 150 people including Science Minister Kirsty Duncan, Unifor President Jerry Dias and HGTV stars of Love it or List it Hilary Farr and David Visentin. "She is paediatrician by day at the Hospital for Sick Children and worked on this the rest of her day. She has longs days."

But now they need help. The fund raiser, which included a silent auction, was to help raise much-needed money.

"This is a deadly illness with no cure. Sometimes it can show up in people 40 or 50 years later," said Godfrey. "The money will help with patients and their families and give them support. It will also go to research."

There is much more to do. "There are a handful of exceptions to the new rules that will apply to sectors like the nuclear industry and military which are being asked to find ways to stop using asbestos by 2022," said Godfrey who presented an award for her efforts in trying to help raise money but also bring in partners to help fight this disease. "But it's a start. The federal government has stuck their toe in the water."

And Duncan was the recipient of one of the awards handed out last night. Another recipient was Dr. Marc De Perrot from Princess Margaret for "his hard work and commitment to helping combat this disease."

Dias said the unionized worker is so appreciative since so many worked in environment that put them at risk.

The goal now is to prevent any more deaths.

"We appreciated everybody coming tonight," said Gold.
"We try to do whatever we can to help patients and families and we developing a underwork to bring expertise and in so doing improve care to patients no matter where they live."

So every bit helps.







