

Opinion | We were wrong, and we are sorry

In the June 11 print edition we published an editorial cartoon that has greatly offended many of our readers.

The same cartoon appeared in several other of our community publications and the intention of the cartoon was to make a statement about the systemic flaws that have been exposed in our country's care homes as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. In some cases, these flaws have led to the deaths and illness of residents and staff to COVID-19. In others, there are lawsuits alleging mistreatment and negligence.

As a society, we cannot deny that how we treat some of our most vulnerable citizens and the staff looking after them is not good enough and that drastic changes to our long-term care and nursing home system must take place in order to avoid another tragedy as we have experienced during the current pandemic.

But by attempting to communicate this important message through a cartoon, we have caused hurt to many of our front-line workers who have worked tirelessly to care for and save the lives of our parents, friends and relatives. It was not an appropriate venue to have this conversation. It was the wrong decision to make and for this we are deeply sorry.

Throughout the pandemic our newsrooms have worked tirelessly to share the stories of residents and of our PSWs, nurses and doctors inside of care homes. Some have been tragic, some have been inspirational, some have been heart-breaking, but all of them have been important.

We have published numerous profiles of our community's heroes on the front lines and articles about our citizens' efforts to ensure our front-line workers have the PPE they need, and of shows of support for those inside homes, some dealing with the sickness and deaths of loved ones to this horrible disease. We will continue to report on changes taking place so this never happens again. This is what you expect. This is our job and we love doing it.

We have heard your voices loud and clear, and we can assure you we will not make this mistake again.

Please accept our apology.