



NEWS

The pandemic exposed huge gaps in EI — turns out the parental leave system has many of the same problems

By [Rosa Saba](#) Business Reporter

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The year 2020 is proof the best laid plans can go wrong. Just ask Shantae Cunningham.

The self-employed, Toronto-based owner of an accounting firm had everything laid out: she was going to voluntarily pay into the Employment Insurance program throughout 2020 so she could access parental benefits come 2021, when she started a family.