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Unfortunately, her last cheque arrived Dec. 22.

Semple worked through all the usual channels, received support from Gillooly and Debbie Sherwin, who co-facilitated the Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World program in which she participated, and even accessed legal advice. After more than three months of struggle, Semple's benefits are to be reinstated by the end of March.

"It's such a relief," said Semple who is looking forward to getting "things back to normal."

But Gillooly doesn't want to see things simply "return to normal."

"I kind of hope that we don't ... I hope we can get to a new normal. The old normal wasn't enough. This pandemic is giving us a phenomenal opportunity to do better and find solutions," says Gillooly.

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