



# ECEBC LEADERSHIP

Featuring Alumni of the ECEBC Leadership Initiative

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## Our Branch

Renuka reflects on the past six months and shares her most significant change in her leadership skills as a result of the ECEBC Leadership Initiative (LI). Renuka shares that the seeds for success were planted during the LI three years ago. The opportunity arrived at just the right time when after 13 years in the profession, she wondered, what next? Renuka recalls that as she worked toward creating a Vancouver Branch of ECEBC, that she felt quite alone and defeated as the dates changed. People from her leadership team had moved and the connection was gone. "I felt like I'd gone back to square one. I was on an emotional roller

coaster having gone from feeling enthusiastic to very low. After the initiative ended, I joined the ECEBC Board. Attending board meetings gives me energy. With help with Yasmin at ECEBC, I got the invitation to the branch meeting, sent out far and wide. 12-13 people showed up and I knew no one. Diane came and guided the group discussion. I received a boost and hope from people coming and getting involved. I have a new sense of connection. I am more confident now that I know I am not alone. It's all because of leadership. I am part of something bigger. We are powerful. I am on a different level now. Three years ago I decided to do something for the field and I hope that the upcoming meetings will help reach more connections including colleagues in stand-alone programs. (January 31, 2014).

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*-Renuka Bhardwaj*



*Renuka has been a member of ECEBC since May 26, 2009. She joined the board of ECEBC on May 3, 2013 and is an active member of the Vancouver Branch.*