Tire Stewardship BC aids in development of project in conjunction with UBC engineers that provides alternative solutions for fibres extracted from recycled tires

Fibres from tires are currently not recycled to the highest end; UBC pilot project designed to research alternative uses for fibres

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Vancouver, BC – Atlantis Holdings and engineers at the University of British Columbia (UBC) have successfully implemented a pilot project that is testing a more resilient concrete using fibres extracted from scrap tires during the recycling process, thanks in part to funding from Tire Stewardship BC.

TSBC became involved in the project as the diversion of fibre from recycled scrap tires to an end use is an issue across Canada, with many, if not all, provinces, except for BC, disposing of the fibre in landfills. TSBC's financial contribution and support for this research project demonstrates BC's leadership in tire recycling and although diverting the fibre to energy recovery (what BC does today) is more environmentally friendly than landfill disposal, the *highest* end use of this fibre is in a product, which this research attempts to realize.

"UBC's researchers, engineers and all partners came together to develop a new form of concrete that will not only make concrete structures more resilient but will help to ensure that used tire fibres are recycled and reused as much as possible," says Rosemary Sutton, Executive Director of Tire Stewardship of BC. "*This project has great potential to revolutionize how we build with concrete and aligns with TSBC's goal of fostering and supporting innovation and research, leading to higher valued solutions within the recycling industry."*

Concrete using recycled scrap tire fibre vs. virgin fibre, was used at UBC's MacMillan building in May of this year to resurface the steps. UBC's team is tracking its performance using sensors embedded in the concrete, looking at development of strain, cracking and other factors. So far, the results support the laboratory testing that show it can significantly reduce cracking.

The fibres from scrap tires can improve the resilience of concrete and extend its lifespan, thereby reducing any project's environmental impact and its need to be replaced. The polymer fibres bridge the cracks that form in concrete as the substance ages. The type of concrete that uses polymer fibres has been designed for structures like buildings, roads, dams and bridges.

The project was initiated by Atlantis Holdings Ltd. with funding provided by TSBC, IC Impacts and Western Rubber Products Ltd., with the latter also being the supplier of the fibre for testing.

Link to UBC's press release:
https://news.ubc.ca/2017/06/13/when-the-rubber-hits-the-road-recycled-tires-create-stronger-concrete/

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About Tire Stewardship BC
Tire Stewardship BC is a not-for-profit society formed to accept responsibility for the provincial scrap tires recycling program. Tire Stewardship BC was founded by the Rubber Association of Canada, The Retail Council of Canada, Western Canada Tire Dealers and the New Car Dealers Association in 1997 and continues to be governed by a Board that is made up of representatives from these four organizations. Industry-led product stewardship is a provincial government strategy to place the responsibility for end of life product management on the producer and consumers of a product, not the general taxpayer or local government. For more information on Tire Stewardship BC, visit http://www.tsbc.ca/