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**Abstract: The Politics of Historical 'Presentism':  
Black Canadians Civil Rights and Reparations**

At the turn-of-the-millennium there has been a renaissance of a nationally oriented Black Canadian Civil Rights movement fuelled by the broader politics of redress—reparations in particular—for historical mistreatment of Blacks in Canada. This exploratory paper has two key themes. It locates the politics of Black Canadian reparations within two contexts. First, the paper locates the Black Canadian reparations movement within other turn-of-the-millennium campaigns and the decline and the re-emergence of a national Black civil rights agenda from the demise of organizations such as the National Black Coalition of Canada to the reparations movement which has infused the campaign for Black civic equality with unexpected momentum and vigour. The second theme addresses the centrality of history and historical scholarship in framing the arguments. The reparations campaign has placed particular upon historians and presents distinct perils for the historians' craft. It has also opened up the possibility for historians of Black Canada to play an important role in social transformation.