

# FRED HODGES

1918-1999, Saint John, New Brunswick



## LABOUR LEADER AND POLITICIAN

Fred Hodges grew up in Saint John, New Brunswick, a descendant of Black Loyalists. After military service in the Second World War, Fred Hodges was active in labour movements, being the first Black member of the freight handlers union in Saint John. In 1962, Hodges became the first Black person to serve as an officer of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour; he was later elected vice-president of the Federation in 1969. Hodges was also active on initiatives for human rights and civil liberties and was an important member of the New Brunswick Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NBAACP). He was appointed to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and became Director of the John Howard Society, a community organization focused on assisting those in conflict with the law. He became the first Black New Brunswicker to serve as a city councillor when he was elected in 1974 in Saint John. Hodges was also awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1978, the Order of Canada, Canada's highest distinction, in 1982, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of New Brunswick in 1984. When asked about his philosophy, Hodges stated, "accomplish what you can accomplish, then get a good night's sleep."