

# RALPH 'TIGER' THOMAS

1938, Saint John, New Brunswick



## COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Ralph 'Tiger' Thomas of Saint John, New Brunswick, has been active in illuminating the history of Black New Brunswickers, believing it to be integral to the heritage and fabric of New Brunswick. He became president of the organization, Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education (PRUDE), in 1997, a group focused on creating inclusion through programs and mentorships throughout the province. He co-founded the New Brunswick Black History Society and was successful in the efforts to get New Brunswick to change racist geographic names of 5 places in the Saint John and Grand Bay-Westfield areas. Before his activism, Thomas was a successful boxer, known as 'Tiger,' and is considered the godfather of amateur boxing in New Brunswick. Upon retiring from the sport, Thomas founded the New Brunswick Amateur Boxing Association, serving as its president for 20 years. He opened the Golden Gloves Club in 1968, where several Saint John members have won both national and international boxing titles. Thomas was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame in 1976 and the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. He received the New Brunswick Human Rights Award in 2012, and was granted an honorary doctorate from the University of New Brunswick in 2019.