

CELEBRATING OUR PAST AND  
HONOURING THE PRESENT



RACIALIZED WORKERS  
COMMITTEE  
**CUPEBC**

# Black History Month: Health and Wellness

In support of the 2022 theme, Black Health and Wellness, the Racialized Workers Committee is highlighting Black trailblazers in Canada – past and present – who have dedicated their lives to the medical profession.

1967

## June James

*First Black Canadian pediatrician in Manitoba*

Canadian pediatrician and professor, she immigrated to Canada from Trinidad in 1960. Earned a bachelor of science (1963), bachelor of science in medicine (1967) and doctor of medicine (1967). An assistant professor at the University of Manitoba.



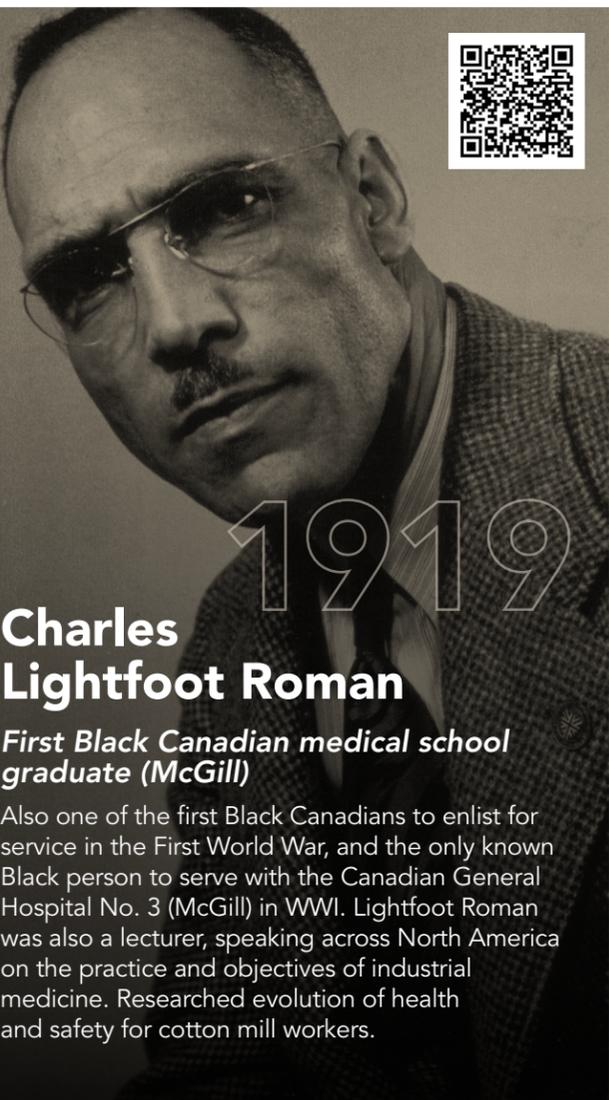
## Anderson Ruffin Abbott

*First Canadian-born Black doctor*

Earned his medical license in 1861 and served in the U.S. Civil War, one of eight Black army surgeons. Returned to Canada and became Kent County coroner before becoming the medical superintendent of Provident Hospital, the first Black hospital in Chicago. Returned to his birthplace Toronto in the late 1890s.



1861



1919

## Charles Lightfoot Roman

*First Black Canadian medical school graduate (McGill)*

Also one of the first Black Canadians to enlist for service in the First World War, and the only known Black person to serve with the Canadian General Hospital No. 3 (McGill) in WWI. Lightfoot Roman was also a lecturer, speaking across North America on the practice and objectives of industrial medicine. Researched evolution of health and safety for cotton mill workers.

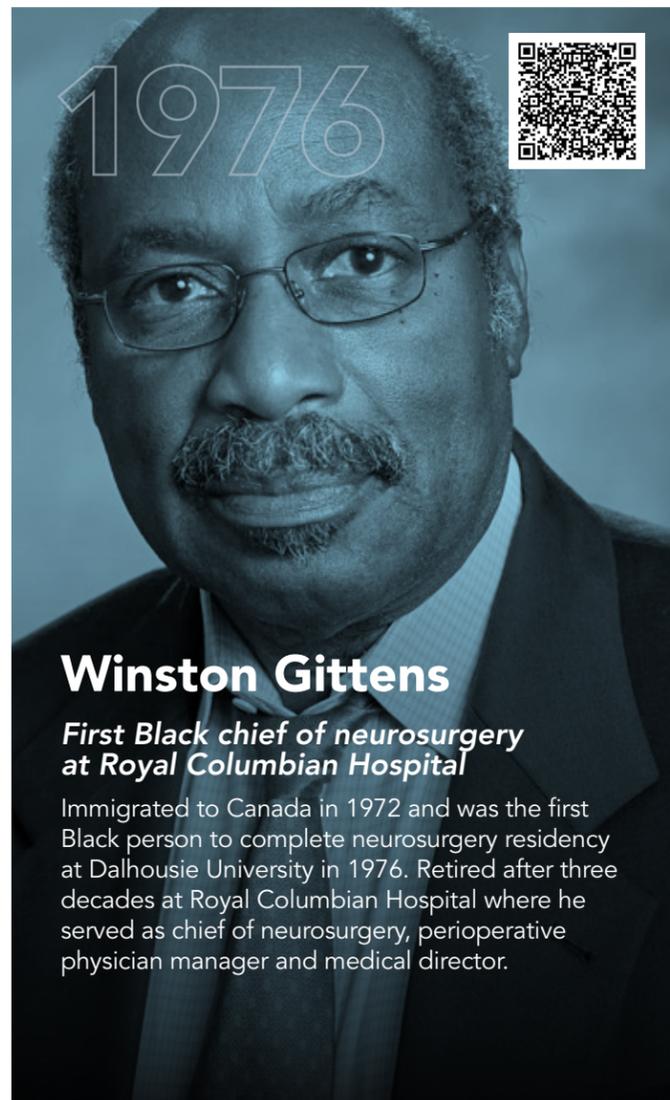


2012

## Gina Ogilvie

*First Black Canadian global and public health physician*

BCCDC senior scientist and professor in the UBC School of Population and Public Health. Her clinical and research focus is on sexually transmitted infections, human papillomavirus, HIV in women and care for marginalized populations. Canada Research Chair at Global Control of HPV related disease and cancer.



1976

## Winston Gittens

*First Black chief of neurosurgery at Royal Columbian Hospital*

Immigrated to Canada in 1972 and was the first Black person to complete neurosurgery residency at Dalhousie University in 1976. Retired after three decades at Royal Columbian Hospital where he served as chief of neurosurgery, perioperative physician manager and medical director.



## Bernice Redmon

*First Black public health nurse*

Redmon earned her nursing diploma in the U.S. in 1945 because Canadian nursing programs did not allow Black students entry until the late 1940's. She returned to Canada to work at the Nova Scotia Department of Health, becoming the first Black nurse to practise in public health. First Black woman appointed to the Victoria Order of Nurses.



## Lillie Johnson

*Founder, Sickle Cell Association of Ontario / first Black director of public health in Ontario*

Johnson emigrated from Jamaica to Canada in 1960, and earned a bachelor of science in nursing at University of Toronto. She became Ontario's first Black director of public health. In 1981 she founded the Sickle Cell Association of Ontario and lobbied the government to add the disease on its newborn screening list. 2010 recipient of the Order of Ontario.



1960