

While growing up in the North, Joe participated in many sports as a youth (basketball, volleyball, badminton, fastball and hockey). He attended 3 Arctic Winter Games in hockey (Fairbanks, AK – 1982, Whitehorse, YK – 1984 and Yellowknife, NT – 1986) and was a member of NWT Team of the Year honours in 1996. Joe left Fort Smith and moved to Grande Prairie, Alberta at the age of seventeen to pursue the dream of playing professional hockey. While playing Junior "A" Tier II hockey in Grande Prairie, Joe finished his grade 12 matriculation program at Grande Prairie Composite High School in his first year and in his second year completed the first year of a Bachelors of Science Degree at the Grande Prairie Regional College. While in Grande Prairie, he was awarded an academic scholarship to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

At Cornell, Joe lettered in Varsity Men's Hockey for 3 years and was named one of the top 10 athletes on campus during his sophomore and senior years. Joe was drafted in the first round of the supplemental National Hockey League draft by the Pittsburgh Penguins after his sophomore year at Cornell (1989).

Upon graduating from Cornell with a Bachelors of Science degree with a dual major in natural resources and business management/marketing, Joe decided to pursue opportunities with the National Hockey League and the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey organization. After two years of playing in the minor leagues, Joe decided to utilize his educational degree by accepting a position as a wildlife biologist for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Realizing the importance of a strong education, in the fall of 2002, Joe completed his Ph.D. degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Alberta. Joe's thesis topic was "Commercial Use of Caribou in the Canadian Arctic".

Dr. Dragon has given many talks and presentations in northern communities to positively influence students and adults in the NWT. In addition, Joe has been featured on several poster series presenting his educational and athletic pursuits and has become an Aboriginal role model for students in the NWT and Alberta.

Joe currently resides in Ottawa, with his wife, Leslie and their three children – Max, Olivia and David.