

# JOY BUTLER

1957 - 2019

Lifetime athlete and educator

Joy was born in Cambridge, England on June 16, in 1957. Always determined to make a difference in the world, she surmounted class and gender obstacles in order to attend college and become a teacher. A visionary Head of Department and national youth basketball coach, Joy used methods and programs that were considered innovative at that time. In 1989, Joy and her partner Claire moved to the US where Joy completed her master's degree and then her doctorate.

Joy became one of the world's best-known advocates for TGfU (Teaching Games for Understanding) a teaching model that uses adaptations to sports and games to make them accessible for all students. Later, in her position as full professor at the University of British Columbia, Joy worked with international colleagues to continue to document and implement TGfU, as well as researching ways in which it can be used to teach democratic skills such as negotiation and decision-making. Her book, "Playing Fair," is now used by many practitioners.

Joy delivered keynote speeches across the globe, published many books and articles, and received many awards, including the prestigious R. Tait Mackenzie Award, which honours Canadian Physical Educators who have effected major change in the field over long careers. However, Joy was perhaps most proud of the graduate cohort program she designed to encourage practicing teachers in the connected fields of Health, Outdoor, and Physical Education to rethink their assumptions about knowing, teaching, and learning. Her first priority was always systemic change in the field that fore-fronted social justice and equity, and fun and fairness for all.

Joy practised what she preached. Diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer over 5 years ago, she exercised daily until three days before her death in September. She took up dragon boating and writing with Callanish Writes. She won hearts and minds in all these communities with her generosity, her understated British humour, and her joyful smile.

Joy did not see her journey with cancer as a battle to be won or lost, but as a journey. She completed that journey with tremendous courage and unfailing consideration for others.