

Pontiac made this speech at a meeting at Fort Detroit in August of 1765. He had made peace with the British and seeks relief for his people. Pontiac presented several belts of wampum during his speech to the representatives of the crown, emphasizing the points which he had made in his speech. Approximately thirty chiefs and five hundred warriors attended the council. This was the last major transaction involving Pontiac and the English.

*Father, we have all smoked out the pipe of peace. It's your children's pipe, and as the war is all over, and the Great Spirit and giver of light, who has made the Earth and everything therein, has brought us all together this day for our mutual good to promote the good works of peace. I declare to all nations that I had settled my peace with you before I came here, and now deliver my pipe to be sent to Sir William Johnson, that he may know I have made peace and taken the King of England for my father, in the presence of all the nations now assembled; and whenever any of these nations go to visit him, they may smoke out of it with him in peace.*

*Father, we are obliged to you for lighting up our old council fire for us, and desiring us to return to it, but we are now settled on the Maumee River, not far from hence. Whenever you want us you will find us ready to wait on you. The reason I choose to stay where we are now settled is that we love liquor, and did we live here as formerly, our people would be always drunk, which might occasion some quarrels between the soldiers and them. This, Father, is all the reason I have for not returning to our old settlements, and that we live so nigh this place that when we want to drink, we can easily come for it.*

*Father, be strong and take pity on us, your children, as our former Father did. 'Tis just the hunting season of your children. Our Fathers, the French, formerly used to credit his children for powder and lead to hunt with. I request in behalf of all nations present that you will speak to the traders now here to do the same. My Father, once more I request you will take pity on us, and tell your traders to give your children credit for a little powder and lead, as the support of our families depend upon it. We have told you where we live, that whenever you want us and let us know it, we will come directly to you.*

*Father, you stopped up the rum barrel when we came here, 'till the business of this meeting was over. As it is now finished, we request you may open the barrel that your children may drink and be merry.*

From the Michigan Council for the Social Studies 1996 Annual State Conference, Session IX. Sean O'Neill, Stephanie Chau, and Jon Brossiet put together "Ideas for Students and Historians and Lessons for Teaching About Native American Issues," excerpting thoughts and suggestions from Terry P. Wilson's Teaching American Indian History (American Historical Association, 1993).