

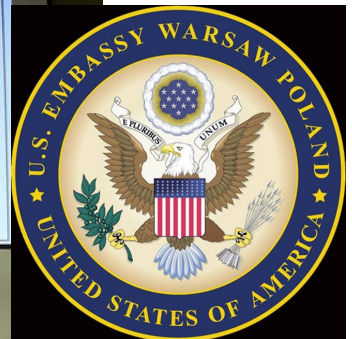
# FRACK EU: UNCONVENTIONAL INTRIGUE IN POLAND

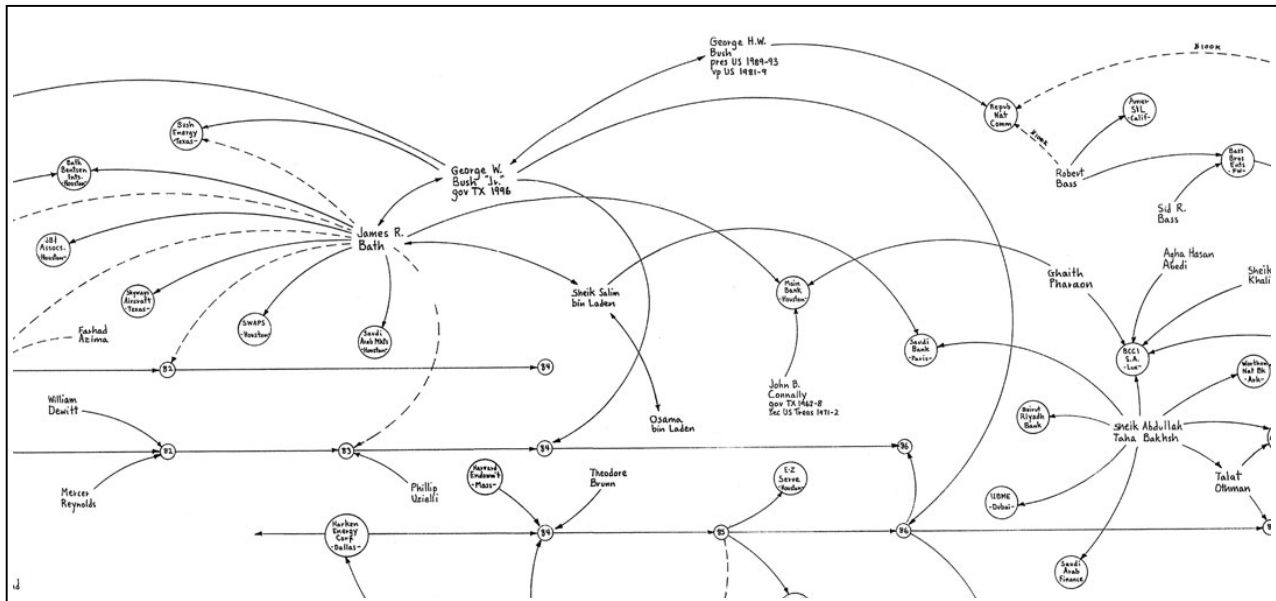


## A Preliminary Investigation of the Fracking Assault on Poland



Conceived, researched, written, edited, produced and financed  
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January 23, 2012  
([www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC.html](http://www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC.html))





### MARK LOMBARDI TRIBUTE

Cut out (above) from Mark Lombardi's famous 1999 drawing, *George W. Bush, Harken Energy and Jackson Stephens, ca 1979-90*. Lombardi used to be a reference librarian in the Houston, Texas Public Library, in the Fine Arts department. Based on his ongoing research from an array of publications and his non-digitized card reference index of some 14,000 entries, he created a series of artful, complex pencil-drawn flow charts depicting corporate, political, crime and conspiracy networks on very large paper canvases, as the one seen in the photo to the right. Lombardi's art-chart works would inspire other creative artists/researchers who would invent their own conceptual approach to chart-art, images cast from a labyrinth of creative connective line works and identification tags.



*And he found ingenious and beautiful ways to form these arcs into fragmented circles, spheres, and even insect like images, always with the effect of **clarifying the underlying narrative**. In Lombardi's cosmology, the little crooks, cons, and double-dealers revolve in perpetual orbit around the heavier CEOs, oil companies, and corrupt government officials. Ask yourself: What the giant, graceful lines forming a globe in a drawing like "World Finance Corporation and associates c. 1970 – 84, Miami – Ajman – Bogotá – Caracas (7th Version)," 1999, are curving around? The answer: **international law**. But again, we have to ask ourselves why? If Lombardi's work was so focused (some might even say obsessed) with simply creating flow charts of global conspiracies, why couldn't it be translated into a range of alternate media? Silkscreen, web site, etched aluminum panel, lithograph – Lombardi contemplated them all and rejected them all as unsatisfactory. Everything other than the most basic tools of creation – pencil and paper – seemed to fall short. (Mark Lombardi, by Deven Golden. Golden was Lombardi's art dealer from 1997-2000.)*

*We can see that there is something like a demonstration, a connection, points of connections. You have something very surprising, because Lombardi knew all that before the facts. We have somewhere, a great drawing about the Bush dynasty which is really prophetic, which is an artistic prophecy, that is a creation of a new knowledge, and so it's really surprising to see that after the facts. And it's really the capacity, the ability of art to present something before the facts, before the evidence. And it's something calm and elevated, like a star. **You know, it's like a galaxy, see, it's something like the galaxy of corruption**. So, the three determinations are really in the works of Lombardi. And so it's the creation of a new possibility of art and a new vision of the world, our world. But a new vision which is not purely conceptual, ideological or political, a new vision which has it's proper shape, which creates a new artistic possibility, something which is new knowledge of the world has a new shape, like that. (Alain Badiou, *Fifteen Theses on Contemporary Art*)*

## Preface

I began writing this report on Saturday afternoon, September 24, 2011, after composing, editing and posting a series of seventeen YouTube videos of Jessica Ernst's and Andrew Nikiforuk's September 10, 2011 presentations at the POWERS workshop, *What Fresh Hell is This?*, held in Cochrane Alberta, concerning the history and politics of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Little did I realize or anticipate at the time that I would be spending the next four long months laying out this report.

It all began by investigating the Stephen Harper government's unofficial announcement on September 20, 2011 in the House of Commons - made by Environment Minister Peter Kent's colleague, Michelle Rempel, Alberta Conservative MP for Calgary Centre-North - that the more than friendly energy-corporate Harper administration would begin a long drawn-out review of fracking in Canada, while fracking operations increasingly continued in Canada's Western Sedimentary Basin. Rempel's announcement slipped out ten days after the precedent-setting POWERS' workshop in Alberta, Rempel's and the Prime Minister's home province, and nine days after three Alberta Blood Tribe members were arrested by the R.C.M.P. for protesting fracking operations on the Blood Tribe Reservation southwest of Lethbridge.

Based on our presentation to a federal committee on fracking in February 2011, and our press release of April 2011 (see Appendix A), my immediate interest in the federal announcement stemmed from comments made by Nikiforuk at the POWERS' workshop (from Part 9 of Nikiforuk's YouTube series), wherein he strongly criticized the federal and the three western provincial governments for ignoring to implement comprehensive studies related to fracking:

*What are the Europeans saying, because the Americans want to frack them like hell? Here's the European Union. I mean, have you seen a study like this in Alberta? **Impacts of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction on the Environment and Human Health.** Has British Columbia done a study like this? Has Saskatchewan done a study like this? Has the federal government done a study like this? No, we have to go to the European Union. What do they say?*

- *Don't do this until you've got a thorough cost-benefit analysis for society.*

*Is it worth the investment? Heh man, why would you do this with toxic fracking fluids?*

- *Strengthen regional regulators and public participation.*
- *Mandatory monitoring for water surface flows.*
- *Air emissions.*
- *Public reporting of accidents and statistics.*
- *Special regulatory framework because of the risks to humans and the environment posed by hydraulic fracking.*

While I began investigating comments and information made on the European Union's research report of June 2011 on fracking, I stumbled upon the following September 14th article published in London-England's **Petroleum Economist**, *Canada lends shale-gas support to Poland*:

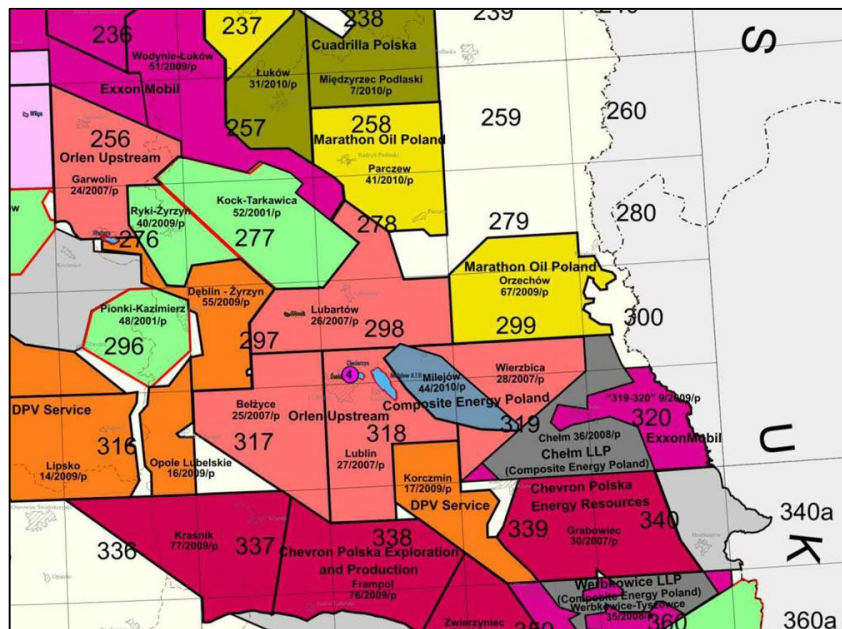
*Representatives from the Canadian embassy in Poland **have been advising the Polish government for the past year** ... with the regulatory framework it aims to establish to ensure the successful development of its nascent shale-gas industry. The regulations recommended*

by Canada include setting up mechanisms to deal with the environmental and local-community impacts shale-gas production can have, as well as offering advice on a taxation and royalty framework that would attract investment from oil and gas companies.

I had to stop for a moment to collect my thoughts, and began formulating critical questions, the later basis of my chapter *Harpers Men in Poland*:

- How could the Canadian Embassy in Poland be qualified, or from whence did it assume its mandate, to provide advice on a regulatory framework policy for fracking in Poland when the Canadian government is without such a policy, when our provincial governments are without the same, and without a comprehensive scientific study basis?
- What exactly was this advice, what were the regulatory terms and conditions?
- Who at the Canadian Embassy was involved in this, and who were the lobbyists?

On the same day the Petroleum Economist article was published, news reports coincidentally surfaced that Canadian-based Encana Corporation (in recent financial and legal liability difficulties) had “reached an agreement with Polish oil group **PKN ORLEN** for part of its shale gas exploration licenses in southeastern Poland ... in Poland’s eastern Lublin district”.<sup>1</sup> A September 14th news release also stated how in “May, Poland said it would push ahead with shale gas exploration despite a recent French ban over concerns that hydraulic fracturing - known as fracking - used in shale gas extraction is environmentally risky.”



Segment of recent Polish Ministry of Environment Concessions map of south-east Poland showing Encana’s partner farm-in areas with PKN Orlen S.A. (shown in pinkish-orange, identified as Orlen Upstream) in the Lublin District. Each map grid square is about 32 by 32 kilometres.

Intrigued by the inter-play or fusion of international politics and studies (or lack thereof in Canada) on the subject of fracking, particularly related to politics surrounding the recent European Union study, I quickly took an unswerving and passionate interest in unearthing the recent history and

concentration of unconventional shale gas and oil investment interests in Poland. As I scanned through reams of documents over the following weeks and months, I found myself in the thick of the new European political fracking battlefield, in a proverbial hornet’s nest, discovering the enormous public relations efforts and ploys by energy corporations and their minions to begin winning over Europeans - all for the benefit of Poland, of course - a veritable coup de gas.

<sup>1</sup> Only one article stated that Encana had been quietly negotiating for a year.

*The chief executive of one the largest oil and natural gas services companies in the world has said that shale gas could be much harder to recover in Europe than in the United States, because of concerns about environmental damage and other issues.*

*“We should not underestimate the challenge,” Andrew F. Gould, the chief executive of the company, Schlumberger, said Wednesday.*

*“The drilling and producing of shale gas wells in Central Europe will be very different from doing so in the southern United States for financial and logistical, social and regulatory reasons,” Mr. Gould said during Oil & Money, a conference convened by the International Herald Tribune.<sup>2</sup>*

What made the issue about shale gas development in Poland even more intriguing and compelling, was the recent position by some Polish statesmen opposing shale gas regulation as it is being contemplated by the EU in general. This publicized resistance stance by Poland, which seems to have more officially been promoted beginning in May, 2011, had much to do with opportunistic politics by energy corporations, seeing that Poland was about to take its turn in heading up the **EU Presidency** for the second half of 2011. What better advertisement for promoting shale gas to the EU, which American investors and U.S. State Department executives have opportunistically fleeced to the hilt!

As the reader will discover in this report, unconventional fracking, by way of powerful inter-linked diesel engine brute forces, is not just about cracking up geologic shales far underground. It’s much more than that! It’s about using other unconventional brute forces to crack governments, communities and people! In other words, in order to frack the earth, it means fracking everything!

Along the way in my research, I came across Mark Lombardi’s work, and found it appropriate to not only make some of my own sketches about the petroleum frackers in his honour, but to also make a tribute to the late Lombardi, the self-made master of visual artistry through pencil-drawn large canvasses marking the complicated webs of people, companies and institutions involved in international finance and political intrigue. Because of the powerful essence in his factual drawings in helping to reveal our complex and often warped world, it is perhaps time for a creative revival in Lombardi-ism.

A cautionary note. Some information in this report on the background of events, people, corporations and institutions is largely sourced from and reliant upon knowledge pools on the internet. Some, like Wikipedia, Forbes and Bloomberg, offer interesting insights and descriptive details, but some of that information needs to be carefully and further scrutinized, and in that sense some of the information in this report should be considered as preliminary. As every good researcher knows, one has to diligently and carefully investigate and assess all of the facts, as sometimes difficult and frustrating it may be. Nevertheless, these sources provide a critical role as initiators for understanding events and individuals in our complex world, a world now under organized and increasing assault by the fracking fraternity.

Some of the translations from various languages, Polish, Swedish, and Spanish were largely made from Google Translate, and guesswork had to be applied at times to make proper sense of this crude

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<sup>2</sup> New York Times, October 13, 2010, *Outlook for Shale Gas in Europe Is Uncertain.*

method. Given the tight budget on producing this report and limited contacts, it was difficult to find sources to make the proper translations.

Our hearts go out to Poland, the home country of former Catholic Pope John Paul II (Vatican City, October 16, 1978 - April 2, 2005). I cannot but help imagine what Karol Wojtyla may have privately pondered and prayed about if he were still alive after being briefed at length by honest and faithful expert advisors and affected citizens from around the world with deep knowledge and experiences about the diverse issues of the unconventional petroleum world, knowing then of the gloomy fate that may be awaiting his homeland. Would he have dwelled on numerous themes in the Scriptures on the sacredness of water? What quotes from the New Testament would the Pope have found appropriate? Perhaps:

- “Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven!” (Matthew 6:10) ?;
- “Love (‘Agape’, from the Koine Greek) Thy Neighbour!” (Mark 12:31) ?;
- “You cannot worship both Mammon and God!” (Matthew 6:24) ?;
- and, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God!” (Matthew 19:24) ?

This report study was self-funded by the author. My deepest and sincerest thanks to all those that helped me along the way, and my apologies to those and the duties I neglected in this period of devoted isolation.

Will Koop  
January 23, 2012

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