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## **Standing, lifting, squatting in cold weather part of security job**

Only one question threw Vancouver's Maha Wahab for a loop when she applied for a \$16-an-hour job as a security guard at Vancouver 2010 venues.

"They asked me, 'Are you willing to squat?' " giggled Wahab.

"I didn't expect that question."

Wahab was among the first people processed at Contemporary Security Canada's Terminal Avenue hiring centre when it opened Thursday.

In fact, the working conditions for 5,000 private security staff who'll be doing airport-style "mag and bag" screening sound rigorous.

A list of requirements for the job includes:

- Stand for long periods of time, up to four consecutive hours without a break.
- Repetitive wrist and hand motion up to 80 per cent of a work shift.
- Bending at the waist up to 30 per cent.
- Working in cold and wintry conditions up to eight hours per shift.
- Squatting up to 30 per cent.
- Lifting up to 12 kilograms.
- "Grasping."

"Early mornings, late nights, very cold, long hours are all part of the effort you have to put in for the Olympic Games," said CSC project director Todd Severson.

Wages range from \$16 an hour for screeners to \$30 an hour for venue managers, he said. Workers will also get a \$2.50-per-hour bonus if they complete all their shifts.

Successful applicants will get full-time jobs for anything from three weeks to three months in 2010.

And they'll get paid for 20 to 56 hours of training.

The hiring centre is geared to "one-stop shopping" where wannabe guards file applications, get interviewed and get a "provisional" job offer.

They then have to be fingerprinted and undergo a police security check.

RCMP Cpl. Jen Allan, spokeswoman for the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit, said "enhanced security measures" will be used to screen the screeners.

As well as a check for criminal records across Canada, RCMP will talk to Canadian border services and check for any international criminal records.