



**SPECIAL EDITION**

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is currently finalizing the list of facilities slated for closure over the next several months. The Department was expected to make an announcement regarding those closures this week, but it now appears the final decision and announcement on prison closures will not happen until late next week.

The prisoner population supervised by the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is continuing to decline. Last month, the prisoner population fell to a seven-year low and it continues to trend downward. As a result of that trend, several facilities will likely be vacant of all prisoners by October 2009. Those facilities will be closed, which may result in the reduction in force of about 1,000 employees.

The actions taken by the MDOC, starting with a new prisoner reentry policy in 2004 and continuing with the adoption of recommendations in a non-partisan study by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, are starting to gain momentum with regard to how we control our prison population. Because of the steps we have taken in recent years, and the actions we continue to take today, Michigan is one of the few states nationally that has a declining prison population and a lower recidivism rate among parolees under supervision in the community.

The Department understands how difficult the uncertainty is for each of our employees. We continue to make the most prudent and well-intentioned decisions possible regarding the closures, while ensuring we are able to fulfill our mission of protecting the public. Thank you for your continued hard work and patience during this time of change and uncertainty. The value of your work and concern for the MDOC and each other is appreciated and recognized on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

*Patricia L. Caruso, Director*